

IOWA

Center for
Human Rights

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



MISSION

As part of The University of Iowa College of Law, the UICHR's mission is to promote and protect human rights at home and abroad through distinguished multidisciplinary leadership in human rights education, scholarship, and public service to The University of Iowa, its surrounding communities, the State of Iowa, and beyond.

The UICHR is guided by The University of Iowa's commitment to the basic tenets of a free society. In fulfilling its mission, the Center continuously revisits even the most fundamental aspects of human rights, treating human rights not as a corpus of fixed thought and action, but as a set of assumptions and choices that are open to constant rethinking because of ever-evolving ideas, conditions, and needs.

Following this approach, the UICHR:

- Engages in a diverse array of teaching, research, and other activities designed to highlight and consider, constructively and critically, the problems and prospects of human rights worldwide.
- Nurtures trans-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration that seeks to integrate artistic and literary viewpoints with legal, political, and socioeconomic human rights discourse.
- Encourages the active participation of faculty, students, and others both within and beyond the UI campus in the conception and execution of its diverse activities.
- Shares information with human rights specialists and the general public about its activities and about human rights issues and developments generally.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



During this year filled with change and challenges in our country and our world, we are proud of our Center's ability to adapt, respond, and rise to the occasion. We were able to educate, connect, and empower thousands through our programming and teaching, including: a webinar series on gun violence as an international human rights concern, as well as a series on building human rights networks in Iowa; a multimillion dollar contract coordinating legal services for Afghans resettled in the state; hosting a distinguished judicial delegation from Kenya; and the resumption of in person One Community One Book activities.

As you read our 2022-2023 Annual Report, we hope that you gain a deeper understanding of our work, and the importance of the involvement of friends like you. We deeply appreciate your vitality and financial support, particularly in these critical times. We hope that you will consider making a donation to the Center by visiting our website at www.uichr.org.



The University of Iowa College of Law
made the 2022-23 Honor Roll for
Human Rights in PreLaw Magazine

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne K. Wing". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ADRIEN K. WING

Director, UICHR

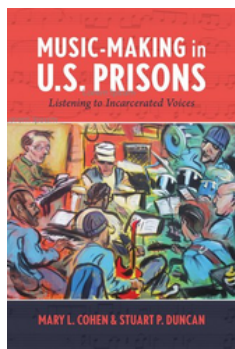
Bessie Dutton Murray Professor of Law

Associate Dean for International and Comparative Law Programs

ADVISORY BOARD: A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

It continues to be such an honor to learn about, discuss, and reflect upon the amazing work happening at the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights (UICHR). I am grateful to have a long connection with the UICHR starting with service on the executive board from 2008 to 2013, and then after the Center became housed in the College of Law, I served as an Advisory Board member. Since 2019, I have been the Chair of the Advisory Board.

My human rights research and creative scholarship has centered around music-making in prisons with goals of abolishing the prison industrial complex and creating a deeper sense of our common humanity through singing, songwriting, and music-making. In November 2022, my book with coauthor Stuart Duncan, *Music-Making in US Prisons: Listening to Incarcerated Voices* was published. COVID-19 shut down the Oakdale Community Choir (OCC) that I led from 2009 to 2020. The OCC included students, faculty, staff, and others in the community who sang with incarcerated individuals or "inside singers". We performed concerts in the prison for over 3,000 outside guests and created 150 original songs. Subsequently I've initiated songwriting partnerships between incarcerated songwriters and "outside" songwriters throughout the country. Our summer 2023 songwriting collaboration culminated in a zoom sharing of original songs, available on the Oakdale Choir website: <https://oakdalechoir.lib.uiowa.edu/>. I also co-lead the International Music and Justice Inquiry Network: IMAJIN Caring Communities. With people from over 14 countries who do research or practice with music-making in prisons, we meet monthly on zoom to learn about each other's work, to collaborate, and to network.



AT RIGHT: Mary Cohen and co-author Stuart Duncan's recent book, *Music-Making in US Prisons: Listening to Incarcerated Voices*



Mary Cohen, UICHR Advisory Board Chair

Our newest UICHR Advisory board members are all students: Justin Rempe, a law student who has worked as a full-time AmeriCorps member with Iowa Legal Aid's Hotline for Older Iowans; Madison Rush, a J.D. candidate in the College of Law and former AmeriCorps Justice Advocate with Iowa Legal Aid; and Ryan Westhoff, an undergraduate student studying political science, and ethics & public policy with a concentration in philosophy. Rempe and Rush are Human Rights Certificate alumni, and Westhoff is currently enrolled in the program.

We have 31 board members who serve on three different committees:

- Program Committee: Newman Abuissa, Cynthia Chou, Mary Cohen, Joe Coulter, Dimy Doresca, Shams Ghoneim, Greg Hamot, Guillermo Morales, Maureen McCue, Suzie Pritchett, Aaron Page, Justin Rempe, Madison Rush, Lisa Schlesinger, and Ryan Westhoff.
- Fundraising Committee: Matsalyn Brown, Diana Cates, Gina Crosheck, Pete Damiano, Britta Loftus, and Chuck Swanson.
- Student Program Selection Committee (Cmiel and Weston Internship and Weston Essay): Kingsley Botchway; David Leshtz; Denise Martinez, Mazahir Salih, and Joan Nashelsky (in collaboration with Certificate faculty John McKerley and Stefanie Bowers).

We are happy to celebrate the special recognition of board member, Sherry Watt, this year. Dr. Watt is the Director of the Multicultural Initiatives Research Team Institute in the College of Education. Her team won the 2023 College of Education Research Award for their work with the Antiracism Coalition, Being Circles, and a remarkable newly co-edited book *The Theory of Being: Practices for Transforming Self and Communities Across Difference*.

STAFF

The Center's core staff consists of Director & Dean Adrien Wing; Associate Director & Professor Brian Farrell; Assistant Director & Professor Amy Weismann; Education and Student Support Specialist & Professor Jo Butterfield; Program Assistant Mary Sleichter; and Program Manager Erika Christiansen.

In addition to regular duties and responsibilities, the Center supports the participation of its staff and partnering faculty in national and international academic conferences, training and networking opportunities, and creates opportunities for cross-disciplinary research and teaching about human rights. Highlights include:



*Back: Mary Sleichter, Adrien Wing, Jo Butterfield
Front: Erika Christiansen, Brian Farrell, Amy Weismann*

Adrien Wing won the College of Law Award for DEI Contributions in Spring 2023. The award recognizes faculty, staff, and students engaged in DEI initiatives that have contributed to an inclusive and diverse community at the law school. She also won two SPOT Awards, which recognize staff for extra-meritorious performance. The Black Law Student Association created a new honor called the Dean Adrien Wing Partnership Award in her honor. Additionally, Adrien attended the American Society of International Law Annual Meeting, where she went to the Board Meeting of the American Journal of International Law and the Patron's Reception. She participated as a member of American Bar Association Council for the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar as well as a Board member for the International Law Student Association. She was a member of Race Relations Prize Selection Committee for her alma mater, Princeton University. At her 45th reunion, she won a service award for her dedication to the class.

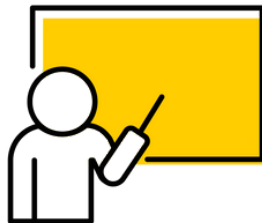
Brian Farrell won the Iowa Board of Regents Award for Staff Excellence in 2023. He attended the American Society of International Law Annual Meeting in March and the ABA's Equal Justice Conference in May. He continues to serve as a regional representative for Human Rights Education USA; as a member of the steering committee of the Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics; as chair of the Iowa State Bar Association's International Law Section; and the boards of the Linn County Bar Association and Justice101. Brian is serving on multiple working groups of the Iowa Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission.

Amy Weismann accompanied seven University of Iowa students to Washington D.C. to attend Student Advocacy Days in the capital and served as a faculty discussant for the 2023 Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics student conference in April. Amy received a SPOT Award from the College of Law during the Fall 2022 semester. She also attended the first annual meeting of the U.S. Section of Scholars at Risk at Xavier University of Louisiana as the University of Iowa Campus Representative in December 2022.

Jo Butterfield participated in multiple teaching and student engagement best practices training sessions. She served as a faculty discussant for the 2023 Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics student conference in April. Jo continues to serve on the International Studies Academic Advisory Board and made presentations across campus to highlight the Center's student opportunities. Jo received a College of Law SPOT Award last semester.

Erika Christiansen serves as an Implicit Bias Trainer for the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and currently teaches in the First Gen Hawks program to sophomores about experiential education, and continues to serve as the staff instructor in the President's Leadership Class. She remains active as an advisor to student organizations Ignite UI and PAWs at Iowa and mentors students working to make positive change with others. Erika also received a SPOT Award in the fall.

TEACHING



The Center provides innovative and meaningful academic and co-curricular opportunities for students. The Center manages the 18-semester hour Human Rights Certificate program under the administration of the College of Law. Students enrolled in the Certificate program take three Foundations in Human Rights courses (9 s.h.), select from a menu of Contemporary Global Issues in Human Rights courses (6 s.h.), and choose between Human Rights Advocacy and Advocacy in Action: From the Classroom to Congress to fulfill the Human Rights in Practice course requirement (3 s.h.).

Certificate program faculty consist of Center staff and others appointed through the College of Law to teach these undergraduate courses, including Stefanie Bowers; Jo Butterfield; Erika Christiansen; Brian Farrell; Aaron Page; John McKerley; Stephanie Patridge; and Amy Weismann. In addition, Jovana Davidovic and Jo Butterfield hold appointments through Philosophy and History, respectively, and teach courses offered by those departments which contribute to the Human Rights Certificate. Faculty profiles are available [here](#).

Faculty and Certificate administrators continue to build on the expansion of topics courses and are currently developing or have recently offered courses on the intersection of human rights and local governance, gun violence, gaming, and artificial intelligence. These 1 s.h. off-cycle courses are taught through Distance and Online Education and permit the Center to reach both on and off-campus students.

The Center deepened its partnership with Scholars At Risk to provide Certificate students with experiential learning opportunities in advocacy through the course, Advocacy in Action: From the Classroom to Congress taught by Amy Weismann. Amy also served on the national Planning Committee for the Scholars at Risk Student Advocacy Days in Washington D.C. and led a student delegation to the in person convening in late March.

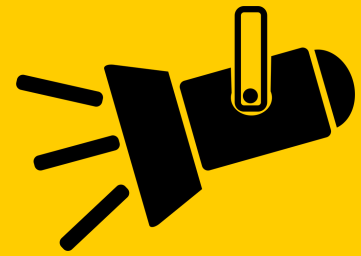


RIGHT: 2023 Seminar in Human Rights Praxis students in Washington D.C.



Center staff and faculty continue to find new ways to spread the word across campus about the multiple, unique student opportunities provided by UICHR. In the spring and fall, the Center tabled Hawkeye Visit Days to introduce prospective students to the Center's programming, the Human Rights Certificate, summer internship funding, the Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics annual student conference, and the Burns H. Weston essay prize. This year, the Center also added a fall semester offering of the Introduction to Human Rights course, permitting us to reach new student populations throughout the academic year. The best testimony to the program's value comes from the students themselves who share their positive experiences with their peers in classrooms, student organizations, and also at Hawkeye Visit Days! –Jo Butterfield, UICHR Academic Advisor

Spotlight: Brian Farrell



Growing up in rural Iowa, working at a university teaching human rights was not a career I could have envisioned. I'm grateful that my then-developing interests in social justice, the law, and international issues would eventually converge in the study of human rights. And I'm glad that a path that included law school, graduate work in Ireland, field work in the Middle East, indigent defense in the deep South, and teaching in Eastern Europe would lead me back home to work with the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights.

My own formal involvement with the Center began in 2009 when, after returning to Iowa, I began teaching in the Human Rights Certificate program. I was delighted to join the Center's administrative staff in 2013 when the Center moved to the College of Law. Over the last decade, I've enjoyed the opportunity to work with my mentor Adrien Wing and our fantastic staff and Advisory Board to expand the Center's scope and impact.

Early on, I was keen to increase the Center's outreach across the state and region. I'm pleased that a centerpiece of those efforts, the Iowa Human Rights Research Conference, has become a robust annual event bringing together students and faculty throughout Iowa. This statewide work continues with initiatives like the ALL Iowa project led by Amy Weismann. I'm also impressed by the development of our programming over the past several years. The Center's pivot to an online platform as a result of the pandemic led us to a longer-term recalibration that has increased the quality and reach of our public programs. Our program manager Erika Christiansen has truly helped take us to the next level.



For several years now I've also directed our undergraduate Human Rights Certificate program with the assistance of our great Certificate advisor, Jo Butterfield. We've recruited new and diverse instructors, expanded our course offerings, grown enrollment, and enhanced student opportunities. I'm proud to see our alumni apply the knowledge and skills they've gained in their careers and graduate studies, including many who've matriculated into Iowa Law.

I feel fortunate to be part of the Center for Human Rights team, and look forward to what the future holds!

INTERNSHIPS



Kenneth J. Cmiel and Burns H. Weston Human Rights Internship Funding Program

In Spring 2023, UICHR received a record number of outstanding funding applications. Thanks to the generosity of the UI-Stanley Foundation Support Organization and the Burns H. Weston fund, the Center awarded six students Kenneth J. Cmiel Human Rights Internship funding, and one law student Burns H. Weston Internship funding, totaling \$12,500, to support students' summer internships with organizations pursuing human rights promotion and/or protection:

Roya Green is a rising 2nd year student at Iowa Law. This summer, she interned at the Geneva-based International Bridges to Justice, an organization dedicated to improving access to justice systems globally.

Per'Tiyah Bruce recently received her MA in education. She coordinated a college preparedness program for young women through the 1619 Project in her hometown of Waterloo, IA.

Emily Harkin is embarking on her senior year at Iowa. This summer, she interned with the Iowa City-based Center for Worker Justice.

Andrew Wendel is a rising 3rd year law student. Andrew interned with the Western District of Washington Federal Public Defender - Seattle Office.

Cassidy Rea is a rising 2nd year student at Iowa Law. Cassidy interned with the Federal Public Defender of the Northern District of Iowa based in Cedar Rapids.

Yaman Hussein, a senior at the University of Iowa, spent part of her summer working with the Jordan Refugees, Health and Humanitarian Action program through the School for International Training.

Siduri Beckman is a rising 2nd year student in the UI College of Law. She interned with the Office of Federal Public Defender for the District of Connecticut.



Roya Green



Per'Tiyah Bruce



Emily Harkin



Andrew Wendel



Cassidy Rea



Yaman Hussein



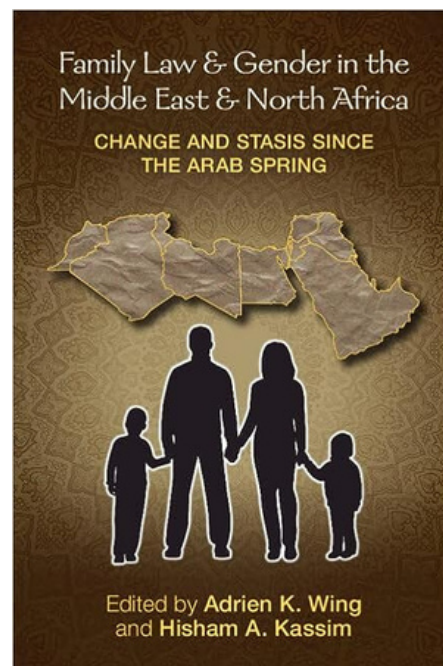
Siduri Beckman

SCHOLARSHIP

Select and Recent Books, Chapters, and Articles



- Adrien K. Wing & Catherine Powell, *Introduction to the Symposium on Feminist Approaches to International Law Thirty Years on: Still Alienating Oscar?*, *American Journal of International Law Unbound* (2022).
- Adrien K. Wing, *Critical Race Feminism: A Different Approach to Feminist Theory*, in *Gender Perspective in Law* (Dragica Vujadinovic & Ivana Krstic eds., Springer, 2022).
- Adrien K. Wing & Hisham A. Kassim eds., *Family Law and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa: Change and Stasis since the Arab Spring* (Cambridge, 2023).
- Adrien K. Wing, *Palestine*, in *Family Law and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa: Change and Stasis since the Arab Spring* (Adrien Wing & Hisham Kassim eds., Cambridge, 2023).
- Adrien K. Wing, *Introduction*, in *Family Law and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa: Change and Stasis since the Arab Spring* (Adrien Wing & Hisham Kassim eds., Cambridge, 2023).
- Adrien K. Wing, *America 2050: Lessons from Apartheid*, in *Global Systemic Racism* (Kirsten Barnes ed., Oxford, forthcoming 2024).
- Adrien K. Wing, *Human Rights, COVID, Global Critical Race Feminism, and Can We Rise*, in *Race and Racism in International Law* (Justin Desautels-Stein ed., Stanford, forthcoming 2024).
- Adrien K. Wing, *Introduction*, in *Oxford Handbook on Women and International Law* (Nienke Grossman ed., Oxford, forthcoming 2024).
- Brian Farrell & Daria Fisher Page, *One Crisis or Two Problems? Disentangling Rural Access to Justice and the Rural Attorney Shortage*, *97 Washington Law Review* (forthcoming Oct. 2023).



Spotlight: Cmiel Funded Internship Recipient Roya Green



"Mrs. Green!" They grabbed my mom, took her away, shut the doors to the bus, and started driving us to the airplane that was awaiting us on the tarmac. "Stop the bus; let us off" I screamed, but it was no use. The police had taken my mother without warning or explanation. We should have never come to Iran, I thought.

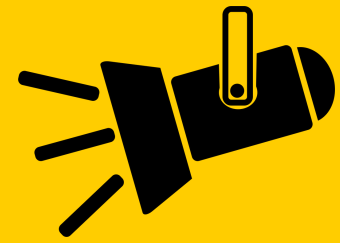
My mom was one of the lucky ones. After some questioning, the police let her go. Unfortunately, this is not the reality most Iranians face when dealing with the so called "morality police." Every day, thousands of innocent Iranian political prisoners of conscience sit in jail awaiting their fate, unable to get proper legal representation because the government will imprison any lawyer they hire as well. Political detainees are often denied the most basic aspects of due process, including the right of access to counsel, to be formally charged, to prepare a defense, and to have a public trial. Their crimes are simply fighting for their right to dress as they want, and for peacefully expressing their views.

When I learned about International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) the fall semester of my 1L year, I knew I had to apply for their legal internship program. IBJ is an NGO that is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Their mission is to provide legal counsel to prisoners around the world, and by extension, IBJ ensures citizens the right to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment, and the right to a fair trial. IBJ's goal is to make sure that everyone is respected in a case of arrest or judicial accusation and that everyone knows about their rights, and are empowered to demand that they are upheld in practice.

During my time at IBJ, I spoke to lawyers in IBJ's different country offices, worked on grant proposals for the different programs, and edited a criminal defense manual for Ghana. Through these experiences, I learned more about international law and what it is like to work in another country. One of the most memorable experiences I had this summer was attending the Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy. At the conference, I listened to speakers from all over the world including, Iran, Cuba, Russia, North Korea, and more. The stories they shared were both heartbreaking and inspirational. The topics ranged from female genital mutilation to the war in Ukraine to the bravery of North Korean mothers. It was an honor to be in the presence of so many human rights activists who, despite facing so many hardships, are continuing to speak out against human rights abuses in their countries.

Thank you to UI Center for Human Rights and the Cmiel summer internship funding program for giving University of Iowa students the opportunity to fight for a more just world.

Spotlight: ALL Iowa Research Assistant Morgane Haddad



My family history is rooted in the Holocaust and the Algerian War. I am a product of immigration and was raised in a diverse environment of cultures and religions, with a Jewish mother and a North African Muslim father. I was born and raised in Paris, France where I obtained a degree in French Law and Common law with a focus on international human rights law at the Université Paris Ouest in 2015. I immigrated to the United States and completed an LLM in International Human Rights Law at Northwestern University and then enrolled in the University of Iowa's JD program.

In the winter of 2022, I participated in workshops to help Afghan refugees who worked for the United States government at the time of the Taliban coup apply for special immigrant visas and/or asylum. They had just been paroled into Iowa and it was evident that there was a significant need to bring this population immediate legal help in their immigration matters. That is why I instantaneously accepted to join the ALL Iowa project, which develops legal resources to help Afghan refugees in their immigration claims in Iowa. It has truly been wonderful to work with the organizations that compose the ALL-Iowa Project. Seeing these brilliant legal professionals come together to answer the needs of Afghan parolees in Iowa has been a great experience.



I have been lucky to contribute to the construction of the project by helping in Temporary Protected Status Clinics, the setup of a virtual helpdesk which will constitute an immense assistance to Pashto or Dari speaking individuals, and any administrative help required for the project to run smoothly. The ALL Iowa Project has taken on a great responsibility in ensuring that the rights of Afghan refugees are protected, and my contribution in my capacity as Professor Weismann's research assistant has most definitely been one of the highlights of my law school career.

See page 14 for a full overview of the ALL Iowa project.



LEFT: Original artwork by Afghan-Canadian artist Ghazal Farkhari. This illustration serves as the ALL Iowa emblem.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2023 Iowa Human Rights Research Conference

The Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics and UICHR hosted the annual Iowa Human Rights Research Conference on April 22, 2023, at Coe College in Cedar Rapids. Twenty-one students presented projects on a variety of human rights topics. Over 75 people attended the conference, including students and faculty members representing nearly 20 different colleges and universities from across the region.



Burns H. Weston Human Rights Essay Prizes

Students from across the state were invited to submit papers for consideration by a faculty and advisory board selection committee recognizing outstanding undergraduate and graduate student essays in promotion of human rights.

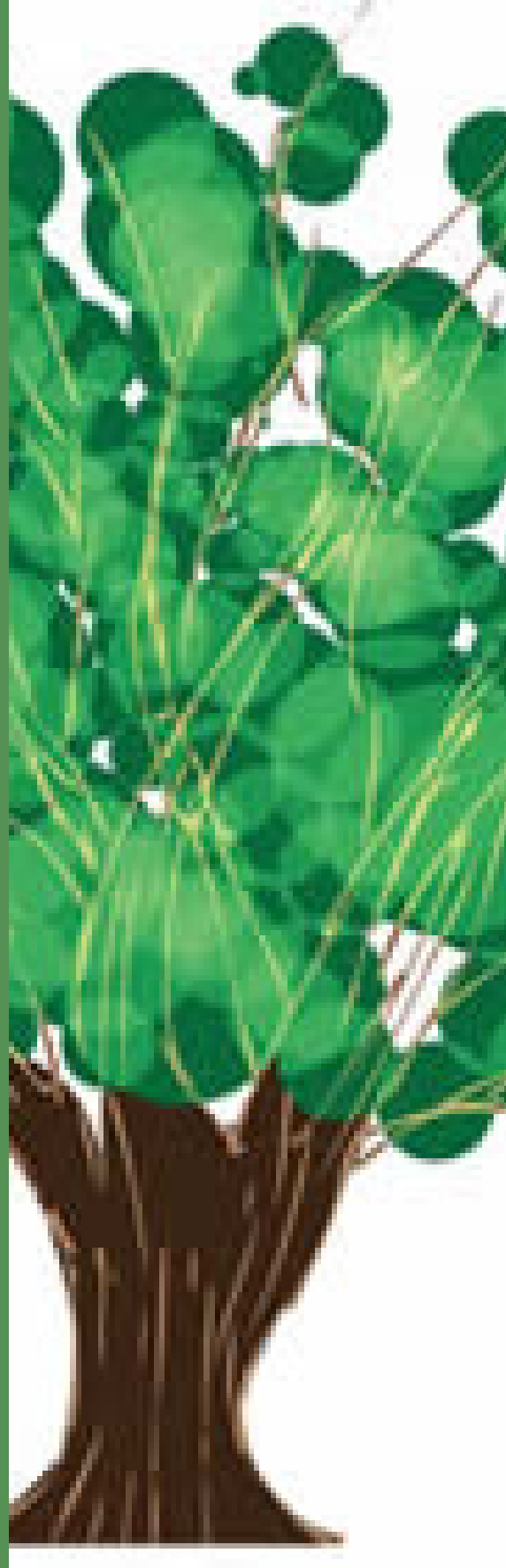
This year the committee awarded the undergraduate prize to Rory Maricle of the University of Iowa for her essay, "The Benin Kingdom: Repatriation, Structural Injustice, and the Human Right to Cultural Heritage." Michael Dillion's, "A Comparative Look at the Definition of Refugee in the Context of the Afghan Displacement Crisis" won the graduate/professional student prize.

The Center is fortunate to have both Human Rights Certificate faculty and members of the UICHR advisory board give generously of their time to read, review, discuss, and select students to receive awards for both the summer internship funding programs and the essay prize.



Iowa Human Right Research Conference participants at Coe College.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



GRANT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Providing Legal Services for Afghans in Iowa (ALL Iowa)

UICHR is coordinating a state-wide collaboration with the University of Iowa Legal Clinic, the Drake Law School Legal Clinic, and the Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice, to facilitate and provide immigration legal services to Afghans admitted into the United States as humanitarian parolees since August of 2021. The partnership seeks to identify and promote best practices in this area, recruit and train pro and low bono legal service providers, and to engage students in providing legal services to refugees. The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), which is part of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, allocated approximately \$1 million over two years in support of direct services, with the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services (BRS) providing an additional amount towards administrative costs. In summer 2023, ORR and BRS have supplemented this funding to extend the project through 2025.

Project partners have served more than 400 Afghans in Iowa so far. Activities have included: clinics in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids to help Afghans apply for Temporary Protected Status, family reunification, and re-parole; trainings for attorneys to represent Afghans on a pro bono basis; hiring of Afghan interpretation staff, supporting certification of Afghan staff to become DOJ Accredited Representatives; implementation of a Virtual Help Desk to support Afghans representing themselves pro se; as well as direct representation of Afghans applying for asylum. Law students and faculty at both the University of Iowa and Drake University are engaged in the project as well. The project saw its first cohort of law student interns work in organizations throughout Iowa in summer 2023.

Additional information can be found at the project website: www.alliowa.org.



Promoting Culturally Appropriate Care for New Iowans

Following a pilot implementation of Problem Management Plus (PM+), an innovative intervention to promote mental health in low resource settings, the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services is now supporting UICHR and the University of Iowa College of Public Health in a “scale up” to offer PM+ trainings in communities throughout Iowa. Project staff are partnering with resettlement agencies and healthcare providers to integrate PM+ into their service provision, and designing continuing education opportunities to engage with a human rights framework to enhance mental health care services. In August 2023, faculty from the New School of Social Research provided a training-of-trainers at the University of Iowa for the first cohort.

Researching Homebuilding in the Heartland

UICHR Assistant Director Amy Weismann and UI Department of Anthropology faculty member Brady G'Sell received an internal funding award to participate in a small-scale project on the meaning of “home” in refugee resettlement contexts. Goals include: 1) creation of a database of organizations that work with and support African refugee women in Iowa; 2) participant-centered pilot data on the refugee resettlement experience in Iowa; and 3) development of a team of African refugee partners to guide future research endeavors. Interviews are underway and have included women from Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to date.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT : WEBINARS AND WEB SERIES

Throughout the 2022-23 academic year, UICHR continued providing in-person and web-based, responsive programming with nearly 5,000 attendees and viewers. Program highlights from the past year are described below. Details of past and current programs and links to recording can be found at <https://uichr.uiowa.edu/programs>.

Human Rights & Gun Violence Webinar Series

In Fall 2022, UICHR organized multiple panels and conversations with scholars and advocates to explore gun violence as a human rights issue, including international law and comparative perspectives, U.S. and state constitutional law on gun access and ownership through a human rights lens, and the gendered dimensions of gun violence.



Alexander McLean Lecture

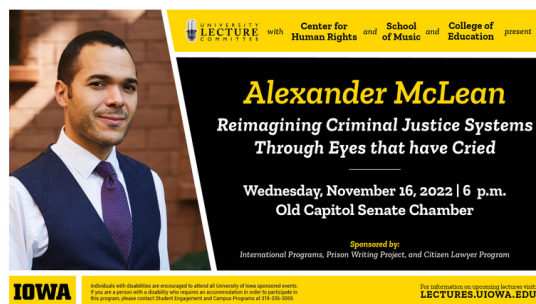
In November 2022, UICHR, in partnership with units across campus, hosted a highly anticipated lecture by renowned international human rights advocate Alexander McLean, a British lawyer and founder of Justice Defenders (formerly African Prisons Project). He discussed his work transforming communities, justice systems, and countries from inside out.



Building Human Rights Networks Webinar Series

This Spring 2023 series explored the UICHR's current work to aid in building networks and strengthening the capacity of people and organizations working in our community to promote and protect human rights, including:

- *Afghan Legal League of Iowa (ALL Iowa)* highlighted the cooperative engagement across organizations in Iowa to support newly resettled Afghans following the military evacuation from Afghanistan in August 2021.
- *Shadow and Light* examined the power of arts to educate and engage a broad audience in human rights discourse, and the value of this type of collaboration between artists, museums, and human rights educators.
- *Scholars at Risk, University Communities, and Student Advocacy* brought staff of Scholars at Risk (SAR) together with University of Iowa students to discuss how university administrations and student advocates can support academic freedom and threatened scholars across the globe.
- *Restoring Community After Incarceration* featured UICHR's support and collaboration with human rights educators and advocates in our community who work with incarcerated individuals.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: WEBINARS AND WEB SERIES

The Future of Blacks in Iowa
Black History Month Lecture

Adrien K Wing
UICHR Director & Moderator

Stacey Walker
Former Linn County
Board of Supervisors

Wayne Ford
Former Iowa State
Legislator

Mazahir Salih
Former Iowa City
Mayor Pro Tem

Friday, February 10, 2023 | 12:40-1:40 pm CST
In Person: 245 Boyd Law Building | Zoom ID: 996 1609 3109

Human Rights Day Focus on Reparations

UICHR provided a panel discussion of the international human rights dimensions of reparations in the U.S. context and around the world, featuring Kathy Masaoka of Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress; Kamm Howard of Reparations United; and Matthew F. Feldman of the Evanston Community Foundation. UICHR Director Adrien Wing moderated the panel.

MLK, Jr. Day and Black History Month Speaker Series

During the spring 2023 semester, the College of Law, the UI Center for Human Rights, and various co-sponsors hosted three virtual events to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Black History Month, including a panel on the future of Blacks in Iowa, and a profile of the Johnson family and their multi-generational commitment to the legal profession. UICHR coordinated the Martin Luther King Jr. Day event for the University of Iowa College of Law, featuring Dr. Ashley Howard (UI History) presented *Where Do We Go from Here? Meditations on Region, Violence & Possibility*.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: REPARATIONS
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7; NOON-1:00 PM (CST)
Zoom ID: 940 8098 8113

Moderated by Adrien Wing
Director, UICHR

Kathy Masaoka
Co-Chair Nikkei for Civil
Rights & Redress

Kamm Howard
National Director, Reparations
United

Matthew R. Feldman
Board of Trustees & Treasurer of
Evanston Community Foundation

This event will be Closed Captioned. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact UICHR in advance at uicr@uiowa.edu.

IOWA
Center for Human Rights

The Lion, The Water Hole & The Wallet
Melanie Nathan

A UICHR Webinar
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
Noon-1:00 pm (CST)

Zoom ID: 975 1086 9751

This webinar will be closed captioned. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact UICHR in advance at uicr@uiowa.edu.

IOWA
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The Lion, The Water Hole & The Wallet

UICHR invited lawyer and South African human rights defender Melanie Nathan (Executive Director of the African Human Rights Coalition, U.S.A. and Kenya) to lecture on the conditions faced by LGBTQI+ Africans subject to criminalization on the basis of their sexual and gender identities in over 30 African countries, and the role of U.S and European-based political and religious interests in fostering this criminalization agenda.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

Kenyan Judicial Service Commission Training

UICHR staff, led by Adrien Wing, and Institute for International Business staff, led by Dimy Doresca, collaborated to host a two-week training for members of the Kenyan National Judicial Service Commission (JSC), including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Lady Justice Martha Koome. This was the second year the Center helped to coordinate a visit by members of the JSC. Associate Provost and Dean of International Programs, Russell Ganim, Dean Adrien Wing, and the Kenyan Judicial Services Commission leadership finalized a Memorandum of Understanding, signed at the closing luncheon that will serve to foster future exchanges between the Kenyan Judicial Services Commission and the University of Iowa.

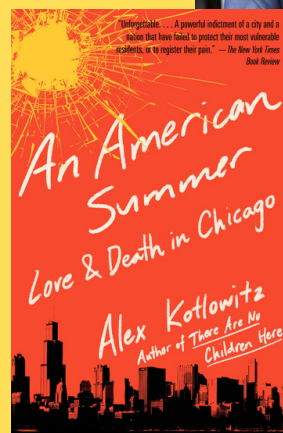
During their visit, the delegation participated in a wide variety of capacity-building sessions, ranging from "Judicial Discipline" at Boyd Law Building to "Emotional Intelligence" at the Pappajohn Business Building. College of Law and Tippie College of Business faculty, former Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Marsha Ternus, and State Court Administrators led the sessions. The program provided the delegates the opportunity to visit select sites and meet with attorneys and judges from across the state, including at the Johnson County Courthouse, Iowa State Bar Association, the U.S. Courthouse for the Southern District of Iowa, and with members of the Iowa State Supreme Court. Chief Justice Koome gave a lecture, "Social Transformation Through Access to Justice" on Thursday, November 17 at the Tippie College of Business.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: ONE COMMUNITY, ONE BOOK

The 2022 One Community, One Book selection was *American Summer: Love & Death in Chicago* by journalist Alex Kotlowitz, documenting the summer of 2013 on the South and West sides of Chicago, and the lives impacted by gun violence in that time and place. In doing so he brings light to what remains a pressing human rights issue ten years later. UICHR, the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature partner, along with support from others, brought Mr. Kotlowitz to campus for an engaging live lecture, meeting with stakeholders, and a classroom visit with the Human Rights & Literature class.

UICHR staff, led by Erika Christiansen, convened a series of events to discuss gun violence and its impact powerfully explored in *An American Summer*. UICHR hosted webinars and discussion forums on the subject of gun violence, including Reframing the Issue; Constitutions, Guns, & Human Rights; and Masculinity, Mass Shootings, and Data Politics. Also included in programming was a screening of "The Interrupters," a documentary film featuring the community featured in *American Summer* and their innovative efforts to stop gun violence.



"The world of *The Farm* is meant to be our world pushed forward just a few inches. . . I wanted the world to be our world, heightened. I hoped that in doing this, the reader would get some distance from our current state—because with distance, and the perspective that distance affords, we're often able to see even commonplace things in a new light.

— Joanne Ramos, speaking to *Rice Paper Magazine* in 2019

The 2023 One Community One Book Selection is *The Farm* by Joanne Ramos. Program Manager, Erika Christiansen worked with Center staff and stakeholders to select Reproductive Justice as the Center's fall programming theme. The concept of Reproductive Justice centers human rights and experiences of women of color. This theme encompasses the human right to personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities. In collaboration with campus and community partners, the center identified Joanne Ramos's, *The Farm* as a novel that would facilitate a conversation about this important and timely subject. Over 20 co-sponsors contributed to UICHR and we successfully fundraised to bring her to campus in Fall 2023. Fall webinars will include: Parenting; Accessing Care; Outcome Disparities; and Envisioning the Future. Additional opportunities to engage in the human rights topic of reproductive justice will occur through documentaries and art.

FULL LIST OF CENTER ACTIVITIES 2022-23



- 1) June 17, 2022: *USA 2050: Lessons from Apartheid*, speaker Adrien Wing; Sorbonne University, Paris; 1:55 – 2:25 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 2) June 20, 2022: *Meaning of Juneteenth*, speaker Adrien Wing; UI Tippie College of Business, Mandela Washington Fellows Program; 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 3) June 20, 2022: *Critical Race Theory*, speaker Adrien Wing; Georgia State Bar Association; via Zoom; 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 4) June 22, 2022: *Critical Race Theory*, speaker Adrien Wing; Iowa State Bar Association; via Zoom; 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 5) June 28, 2022: *Rural Access to Justice*, speaker Brian Farrell; International Society for the Study of Rural Crime; via Zoom; 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 6) June 30, 2022: *Critical Race Feminism Theory in the Twenty-first Century*, keynote speaker Adrien Wing; University of Belgrade, Serbia; via Zoom; 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 7) July 12–16, 2022: *Reparations*, attendee Adrien Wing; Rockefeller Center at Bellagio, Italy (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 8) August 4, 2022: *Appointments*, speaker Adrien Wing; Association of American Law Schools; via Zoom; 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 9) August 23, 2022: *A Decent Home* film Screening and discussion, panelists Candi Evans, Iowa Manufactured Home Resident's Network; Sara Tery, director/producer/cinematographer; and Len Sandler, Iowa Law and Policy in Action Legal Clinic; Levitt Auditorium, 295 Boyd Law Building; 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. (UICHR co-sponsored event with Citizen Lawyer Program, UI Labor Center, and Iowa Law & Policy in Action Legal Clinic).
- 10) September 14, 2022: *Human Rights and Gun Violence: The International Human Rights Agenda on Civilian Gun Violence*, moderator Amy Weismann; speaker Barbara A. Frey, Director of the Human Rights Program, University of Minnesota; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).
- 11) September 16, 2022: "Decolonizing Cultural Heritage Law," in *From Antiquities to Warhol: Exploring the Intersection of Art and Law series*, speaker Emily Behzadi, California Western School of Law; 235 Boyd Law Building; 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored with the Iowa Innovation in Business & Law Center).
- 12) September 20, 2022: *International Peace Day: End Racism. Build Peace*; Mercer Park, Shelter #1; 5:30 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with Johnson County UNA, Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility, PEACE Iowa, Veterans for Peace, and City of Iowa City Office of Equity & Human Rights).
- 13) September 22, 2022: *Unite to End Gender Based Violence: An Empowering Evening*; Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis campus; 6:00 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with Global Rights for Women).
- 14) September 23, 2022: *Attacks on Critical Race Theory*, keynote speaker Adrien Wing; International Academic Forum, Barcelona, Italy; via Zoom; 8:00 – 8:45 a.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 15) September 30, 2022: *Current Events in Ukraine: Implications for World Order*, panelists Professor Ronald McMullen; Associate Dean Adrien Wing; and Anna Vonderhaar, law student from Ukraine; 225 Boyd Law Building; 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. (UICHR Cosponsor with International Comparative Law Program and International Law Students Association).
- 16) September 30, 2022: *Critical Race Theory*, speaker Adrien Wing; Mediation Services of Eastern Iowa; via Zoom; 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).

- 17) October 7, 2022: Meet and Greet with Alex Kotlowitz; Faculty Lounge, Boyd Law Building; 4:00–5:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).
- 18) October 7, 2022: One Community, One Book; *An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago*, speaker Alex Kotlowitz; W10 Pappajohn Business Building; 7:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event with UNESCO City of Literature and Iowa City of Human Rights Commission).
- 19) October 7, 2022: *Human Rights, Covid 19, and Global Critical Race Feminism*, speaker Adrien Wing; Stanford University Press; via Zoom; 2:00 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 20) October 13, 2022: *Deaf Gain: How Being Different Can Be a Benefit*, speaker Joe Murray PhD, President of the World Federation of the Deaf; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with the Cedar Rapids Association of the Deaf and ASL Club at UI).
- 21) October 13–14, 2022: *The ‘Woman’ in International Law*, keynote speaker Adrien Wing; Max Planck Institute for Procedural Law, Luxembourg; 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 22) October 18, 2022: One Community One Book Community Book Club; via Zoom; 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).
- 23) October 21, 2022: *Reframing Assessment of Rural Access to Justice*, presenters Brian Farrell & Daria Fisher Page; Law & Rurality Workshop, Lincoln, Nebraska (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 24) October 22, 2022: *COVID and Global Critical Race Feminism*, keynote speaker Adrien Wing; American Branch International Law Association, New York; 11:30 – 2:30 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 25) October 25, 2022: *Human Rights and Gun Violence: Constitutions, Guns, & Human Rights*, moderator, Brian Farrell; speaker Leila Sadat; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).
- 26) October 28, 2022: *Wrongful Convictions Issues, Resources, & Takeaways*, speaker Brian Farrell; Iowa Federal Public Defender Fall Continuing Legal Education Seminar, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 27) November 2, 2022: “Whether It’s Real and Why It Is Here: Authenticity, Provenance, and the Repatriation of African Art,” in *From Antiquities to Warhol: Exploring the Intersection of Art and Law* series, panelists Lauren Lessing and Cory Gundlach; Boyd Law Building, Room 245; 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with Iowa Business & Law Center).
- 28) November 3, 2022: *Vote and Remove all Doubt: Saving Democracy ... the Fierce Urgency of Now*, panelists Valarie Davis, ElevateHer Inc.; Dr. Terry Anne Scott, Institute of Common Power; Associate Dean Adrien Wing, UI College of Law; Dr. Fred Primm, Jr., Alabama Alliance of Black School Educators; on *The Cutting Edge, All Things Health and Wellness: Covid 19 & Beyond*; Facebook Live; 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 29) November 11, 2022: *Wellness, Spirit Injuries, Law School, and You*, speaker Adrien Wing; National Lawyers Guild; 12:40 – 1:40 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 30) November 12, 2022: *How Do We Move Forward? A Retrospective of the Last Two Years of Activist Work in Iowa City*, panelists Adrien Wing, College of Law; Mazahir Salih, Center for Worker Justice; and Tina Deng, Wright House of Fashion; Iowa City Public Library, Meeting Room A; 3:00 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event with Community Conversations: Oracles of Iowa City).
- 31) November 14, 2022: *Human Rights and Gun Violence: Masculinity, Mass Shootings, and Data Politics*, moderator, Jo Butterfield; panelists Tristan Bridges and Tara Tober, University of California, Santa Barbara; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).

- 32) November 16, 2022: *Reimagining Criminal Justice Systems Through Eyes That Have Cried*, speaker Alexander McLean; Old Capitol Senate Chamber; 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event with the School of Music, UI Lecture Committee, College of Education, International Programs, Prison Writing Project, and Citizen Lawyer Program).
- 33) November 17, 2022: *Social Transformation Through Access to Justice*, speaker Martha Koome, Chief Justice of the Kenyan Supreme Court; S401 Pappajohn Business Building; 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with the Institute of International Business, Tippie College of Business).
- 34) November 29, 2022: *Attacks on Critical Race Theory*, speaker Adrien Wing; Leeds University, United Kingdom (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 35) December 7, 2022: *Human Rights Day: Reparations*, panelists Kathy Masaoka, Kamm Howard, Matt Feldman, and Adrien Wing; via Zoom; 12:00–1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).
- 36) December 16, 2022: *Critical Race Theory*, speaker Adrien Wing; Better Together 2030; 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 37) January 18 – May 31, 2023: *Shadow and Light: Honoring Iraqi Academics*, UI Old Capitol Museum, Hanson Gallery (UICHR cosponsored event with UI Pentacrest Museums).
- 38) January 20, 2023: *Where Do We Go From Here? Meditations on Region, Violence, & Possibility*, speaker Dr. Ashley Howard; 235 BLB and via Zoom; 12:40 pm – 1:40 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with the College of Law, the Law Student DEI Committee, and the Faculty DEI Committee).
- 39) February 9, 2023: *Reparations*, panelist Adrien Wing; American Society of International Law; via Zoom (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 40) February 10, 2023: *The Future of Blacks in Iowa*, panelists Adrien Wing, UICHR Director & Moderator; Stacey Walker, Former Linn County Board of Supervisors; Wayne Ford, Former Iowa State Representative; Mazahir Salih, former Iowa City Mayor Pro Tem; Black History Month Event; 245 BLB and via Zoom; 12:40 – 1:40 p.m. (UICHR organized event cosponsored with the Iowa College of Law).
- 41) February 22, 2023: *The Johnson Family: Committed to the Law*, panelists Lonnie, Autuan, and Eartha Jean Johnson; Hon. Teiva Johnson Bell; Tiera Johnson Williams; and Antoy Bell; moderator, Adrien Wing; Black History Month Event; via Zoom; 12:40 – 1:40 p.m. (UICHR organized event co-sponsored with Iowa College of Law).
- 42) February 23, 2023: *Critical Race Theory*, speaker Adrien Wing; Better Together 2030; MERGE, Iowa City (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 43) March 8, 2023: *The Lion, the Water Hole, & the Wallet*, speaker Melanie Nathan; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).
- 44) March 8, 2023: *Islamic Feminism and Women’s Rights*, panelists Dr. Vivienne Wee; Rozana Isa; via Zoom; 8:00 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with the Iowa City Foreign Relations, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies and other UI Centers and Departments).
- 45) March 13, 2023: *Constitution Making in South Africa*, speaker Adrien Wing; University of Richmond Law School; via Zoom (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 46) March 20, 2023: *A Human Rights Basis for Claims of Innocence*, speaker Brian Farrell; Irish Centre for Human Rights; University of Galway, Galway, Ireland (UICHR staff-engaged event).

- 47) March 22, 2023: *Building Human Rights Networks – Afghan Legal League of Iowa (ALL Iowa): Cooperative Pathways for Immigration Legal Service Provision after Operation Allies Refuge*, panelists Suzan Pritchett, Professor of Law, Director of Clinics & Experiential Education, Drake University Law School; Austin Moore, Staff Attorney, Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice; and Loren Bawn, Operations Manager; Bureau of Refugee Services, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).
- 48) March 31, 2023: *The Human Rights Conundrum: Climate Change Interventions as both Problem and Solution* symposium; 225 Boyd Law Building; 8:50 a.m. – 6:15 pm. (UICHR event cosponsored with the Journal of Gender, Race & Justice, Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems, College of Law, Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative, and UI Graduate and Professional Student Government).
- 49) April 11, 2023: *Careers*; Adrien Wing panelist; hosted by OWLSS (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 50) April 12, 2023: *Building Human Rights Networks – Shadow and Light: An Exhibit*, panelists Brian Farrell; Liz Crooks; & Beau Beausoleil; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event cosponsored with Pentacrest Museums).
- 51) April 14, 2023: *Critical Race Theory*, speaker Adrien Wing; White Privilege Conference; Mesa, Arizona (UICHR staff-engaged event).
- 52) April 22, 2023: Iowa Human Rights Research Conference; Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (UICHR co-organized event with Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics).
- 53) April 24, 2023: *We (Nous)*, film screening; The Chauncey, 6:30 p.m. (UICHR event co-sponsored with FilmScene).
- 54) May 2, 2023: *Building Human Rights Networks: Scholars at Risk, University Communities, and Student Advocacy*, panelists Claire Robinson, SAR Advocacy Director; Adam Braver, SAR Student Advocacy Seminars Coordinator; and UI students, Emma Anderson and Caleb Lahr; via Zoom; 12:00 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).
- 55) May 24, 2023: *Building Human Rights Networks: Restoring Communities After Incarceration*, panelists Heather Erwin, UICHR Advisory Board; Michelle Heinz, Director Inside Out Reentry; Zach Palmer, UI undergraduate student; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).
- 56) May 27–30, 2023: *Reframing Assessment of Rural Access to Justice: Developing New Measurements of Legal Infrastructure and Need*, presenters Brian Farrell and Daria Fisher Page; 2023 Annual Meeting, Law & Society Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico (UICHR staff-engaged event).

