

# SPIRITUALITY, LAW AND POLITICS

*Fostering Human Connection in an Era of Alienation*

## PISLAP 2018 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

October 11-14, 2018

American University College of Law

Washington D.C.

To register: [www.spiritlawpolitics.org](http://www.spiritlawpolitics.org)

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 4:00 - 6:30 pm      Registration
- 5:00 – 6:30 pm      Reception (light hors d’oeuvres, cash bar)
- 6:30 - 7:00 pm      Welcome & Opening Practice                      [GH = Grossman Hall = Plenary Room]
- 7:00 – 8:00 pm      **KEYNOTES: HISTORY AND MISSION OF THE PROJECT FOR INTEGRATING  
SPIRITUALITY, LAW AND POLITICS (PISLAP)**                      [GH]

The history and mission of PISLAP will be the focus of our opening keynote addresses, along with an introduction to PISLAP’s four “pillars” that will be explored during the conference.

*Nanette Schorr, co-founder PISLAP; Peter Gabel, co-founder PISLAP*

- 8:00 - 9:15pm      **CULTIVATING COMMUNITY: SHARING INTENTIONS AND QUESTIONS**                      [GH]

As we begin to arrive and create a conference community, this interactive session will invite us to share our intentions and questions for our days together. We will engage in personal, interpersonal, and system-focused reflection, eventually forming small “journey groups” to return to and connect with throughout the weekend. We will close the evening with a guided visual meditation.

*Priya Deepika, attorney, sound-healer, educator; Angela Gius, educator, facilitator, and attorney; Robert Haferd, Restorative Justice Coordinator, Office of the Attorney General for DC.*

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

7:30 – 8:45 am      **MORNING OFFERING**

Tanya Senanayake will lead a nature walk with guided meditation.

*\*\*Please meet at the entrance to the Yuma building and bring something to sit on, like a pillow, coat, or blanket.\*\**

9:00 - 9:55 am      **OPENING OURSELVES TO HUMAN CONNECTEDNESS AND BELOVED  
COMMUNITY** [GH]

PISLAP's focus of fostering human connectedness is a continuation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision for beloved community. His contemplative perspective deeply informed his vision, mission and action for social justice. At the inception of this conference, we invite King's wisdom and insight through an adaptation of the ancient Benedictine monastic practice of Lectio Divina, a contemplative method of reading a text and meditating on its meaning.

The questions Dr. King raised are as alive now as they were 50 years ago. This adaptation is a collective practice for both the readers and the listeners, as the attention, awareness, breathing, listening and reflecting by all contribute to this contemplative practice and cultivate a meditative perspective. Participatory activity.

*Alizabeth Newman, Executive Director, Alumni Engagement and Initiatives, CUNY School of Law; Eddie Hailes, Managing Director/General Counsel, the Advancement Project, Assistant to the Pastor, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Washington D.C.*

10:00 – 11:15 am      **PLENARY SESSION** [GH]

### **LEGAL EDUCATION: REBUILDING THE CURRICULUM**

How do the most basic doctrinal concepts and methods of legal analysis—the traditional focus of each lawyer's education—manifest the idea of humans as separate, alienated beings? And how, as doctrinal professors and clinicians, can we help our students explore healing interventions that create spiritually meaningful human connection and link the achievement of that connection with doing justice?

*Susan Brooks, Associate Dean for Experiential Learning & Professor of Law, Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law; Chaumtoli Huq, Associate Professor of Law, CUNY*

*School of Law; Peter Gabel, Editor-at-Large, Tikkun magazine, Professor of Law, John F. Kennedy Law School, Professor of Social-spiritual Activism, Western Institute for Social Research in Berkeley.*

11:15 - 11:30 am Break/Transition to Breakout Sessions

11:30 – 12:45 pm **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT/WORKSHOP SESSIONS A**

(#A1) **INNER LEARNING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE LAWYERS** [Y115]

How do contemplative practices support change in intractable systems? The success of social change makers depends on their interior condition. Contemplative systems highlight an underlying reality: All entrepreneurs are social entrepreneurs, all lawyers are social impact lawyers, and everyone is a change maker. This workshop explores the science and practice of attention, compassion, and discernment.

*Bjorn Sorenson, Principal, King Spoke Advisors*

(#A2) **TEACHING SKILLS FOR RECOGNIZING HUMANITY & PROMOTING EMPATHY** [Y402]

How can teachers overcome political polarization in the classroom to build an open and robust space that also protects the identity and dignity of each student? In this experiential session, seasoned teachers will share their step-by-step methods for bringing empathy and human connection into their classrooms.

*Jill Engle, Professor of Clinical Law & Director, Family Law Clinic, Externships, Public Interest, & Joint Degree Programs, Penn State Law; Amy Uelmen, Visiting Lecturer, Research fellow at Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University Law Center*

(#A3) **DIGNITY IN NEGOTIATION AND CIVIL RIGHTS DIALOGUE THROUGH A HOLISTIC LENS - FINDING COMMON GROUND** [YT16]

The desire for dignity, fairness, justice, and equality are the cornerstone principles of democracy and essential to our legal system. Violations to such principles may lead to conflict. How can we overcome obstacles to racial, ethnic, gender, and multicultural healing in this nation and bring dignity to our negotiations? How can we realize a

shared vision of social justice? How can we heal ourselves as a nation? How can we remove the hardness in our hearts from all the years of oppression? How do we forgive and find peace? This workshop will explore the civil rights discourse using the concepts of compassion, forgiveness, and healing to rethink conflict transformation through a holistic lens by including the practice of dignity as essential to the development of successful and long lasting agreements.

*Joy S. Rosenthal, Founder, Rosenthal Law & Mediation; Angie Martell, Iglesia Martell Law Firm, PLLC*

(#A4) **RESTORATIVE, TRANSFORMATIVE, AND COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY RESPONSES TO SEXUAL HARM** [Y116]

A panel examining a variety of alternative approaches to address and respond to sexual harm in our world. Panelists will also discuss the benefits and unique hurdles each must address to operate within communities and on college campuses.

*Gretchen Casey, Director of Restorative Justice Training, Outreach, and Advocacy, River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding; Jonathan Scharrer, Director of the Restorative Justice Project, University of Wisconsin Law School; Jordan Draper, Dean of Students, Title IX Coordinator, College of New Jersey; Mary Koss, Professor of Public Health, Department of Health Promotion Sciences, University of Arizona College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Gender and Women's Studies*

1:00 – 1:50 pm      Box Lunch

Lawyers from the UK and Australia will share their perspectives on emerging PISLAP movements in their countries [GH]

*Virginia Warren, Partner, Stidston Warren Lawyers, Australia; Mothiur Rahman, UK solicitor, legal consultant, New Economy Law (via Skype)*

2:00 – 2:45 pm      **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: FANIA E. DAVIS** [GH]

*Fania is a leading national voice on restorative justice. She is a long-time social justice activist, civil rights trial attorney, restorative justice practitioner, writer, professor and scholar with a PhD in Indigenous Knowledge. She founded and directed Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) in Oakland CA.*

**TRANSFORMING LAW PRACTICE: BRINGING A SPIRITUAL DIMENSION TO PRACTICE IN DIVERSE SETTINGS**

One of PISLAP's aims is to transform law practice away from its exclusively analytical focus on vindicating rights and toward fostering deeper engagement with clients while pursuing remedies that have transformative potential. This plenary will explore ways of accomplishing this shift in a variety of legal contexts-- as judges in court, in the delivery of legal service, *in legal representation of immigrants at the border during the current time of crisis*, and while advocating as lawyers in a civil rights context.

*Nanette Schorr, Co-founder, PISLAP, legal services attorney; Hon. Bruce Peterson Hennepin County Minnesota District Court Judge; Ross Brockway, Equal Justice Fellow, The Georgia Justice Project; Eddie Hailes, Jr., Managing Director and General Counsel, the Advancement Project*

4:15 – 4:30 pm Break/Transition to Breakout Sessions

4:30 – 5:45 pm **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT/WORKSHOP SESSIONS B**

(#B1) **MINDFUL ENGAGEMENT FOR RESILIENCE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE [Y115]**

How do we engage wisely and kindly with the challenging emotions, mind states, views, and opinions churned up in the current political and electoral environment? By engaging mindfully in turbulent times, we can respond in ways that do not perpetuate division, hatred, and fear, and do support healing and the building of a truly inclusive and equitable society. This workshop provides practical contemplative tools to build resilience for effective social action.

*Hugh Byrne, PhD, Guiding Teacher, Insight Meditation Community of Washington (IMCW)*

(#B2) **INCORPORATING FAITH TRADITIONS INTO LEGAL WORK & TEACHING [YT16]**

How do our different faith and wisdom traditions inform, motivate, and transform our teaching, especially in secular educational settings? Hear from teachers and practitioners whose faiths, or whose work with people of faith, are central to their teaching and lawyering.

*Etienne Toussaint, Assistant Professor of Law, University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law; Jenna Cobb, Staff Attorney, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia; Adjunct Professor, University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law*

**(#B3) SOULS IN ACTION: USING “GENERATIVE ATTENTION” TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS [Y116]**

When people are locked in conflict, obviously what’s needed is for them to do fresh thinking. But as a mediator, how do you help people to accomplish this, to figure out their own brilliant solutions to their conflict? Our answer is: *By giving them “generative attention.”* In this workshop, we will define generative attention, show how to give generative attention, provide participants an opportunity to practice giving and receiving generative attention, discuss its efficacy in mediation, and explain the neuro-psychological reasons for its power in helping people to think for themselves.

*John Spiegel, Mediator/Founder, Mediation Office of John Spiegel, J.D. & Donna Duquette, J.D.; Judith M. Glasser, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Private Practice*

**(#B4) RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE: TWO SIDES OF ONE COIN? [Y402]**

“Restorative justice” and “trauma-informed care” are both buzz words in today’s education jargon. Programs to implement both are proliferating, but do they need to be separate tracks? This workshop discusses our evolving understanding of trauma and how many restorative justice models provide trauma-informed care.

*Sylvia Clute, Director, Alliance for Unitive Justice; Taryn Hughes, founder Forest Hughes & Associates; Meg Sander, PhD, JD, Assistant Professor of Education and Director of the Eastern Mennonite University Graduate Teacher Education Program*

6:00 – 7:15 pm Buffet Dinner [GH]

7:15 – 8:30 pm **STORYTELLING CIRCLES** [GH]

We will split up into several circles, and everyone will have an opportunity to share their journeys, struggles, and hopes by telling stories of their own journeys related to finding human connection in a time of alienation. Sharing optional.

*Priya Deepika, Angela Gius, Robert Haferd*

8:30 – 9:00 pm **FULL GROUP CLOSING PRACTICE**

[GH]

A closing sound journey inviting us to digest the day, relax, release stagnant energy, and prepare for the days to come.

*Priya Deepika*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13**

7:30 – 8:45 am **MORNING OFFERING**

[GH]

Sachin Khandari, Esq., will lead us in an “Open-Mic Meditation (OMM),” a group-led practice. We circle up and everyone provides input on a) what practice they feel confident in guiding the group, and/or b) what they want to experience from the group. Thus ensues a (short but animated) dialogue on how to structure the session, including selecting which offerings to practice that morning, and how to sequence them. We close with a brief reflection. OMM has been written up in the Huffington Post: [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/06/open-mic-meditation\\_n\\_1324373.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/06/open-mic-meditation_n_1324373.html).

9:00 - 10:00 am **CULTIVATING COMMUNITY: SYNTHESIZING OUR EXPERIENCES & CREATING SPACE FOR THE DAY**

[GH]

An opening contemplative practice and welcome. Through a sound healing and vocal cleansing process led by Priya Deepika, we will review themes from our previous days and prepare for the day to come.

*Priya Deepika, Angela Gius, Robert Haferd*

10:00 – 10:45 am **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JAMIE RASKIN**

[GH]

Jamie is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Maryland’s 8th Congressional District, and a law professor at AU.

10:45 - 11:00 am **Break**

11:00 – 12:15 pm PLENARY SESSION

[GH]

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, RACIAL HARM, AND HEALING

This plenary will explore the expanding restorative justice efforts underway around the country to remediate and heal historical harm.

*Kat Culberg, Director of Re-entry, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY);  
Desiree Anderson, Director, Intercultural Center at Saint Mary's College of California; Jodie  
Geddes, Community Organizing Coordinator, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY);  
Jonathan Scharrer, Director of the Restorative Justice Project, University of Wisconsin Law  
School.*

12:15 – 1:15 pm Box Lunch

1:30 – 1:45 pm **CONTEMPLATIVE GROUNDING PRACTICE & INTRODUCTION TO CIRCLE  
DIALOGUES** [GH]

*Mutima Imani*

1:45 – 3:00 pm PLENARY SESSION

[GH]

- (1) REFLECTIONS FROM HEALING DIALOGUES**
- (2) GUIDED CIRCLE CONVERSATIONS**

1:45 - 2:00 pm

(1) A short talk by facilitator Mutima Imani about American University's ongoing process of healing dialogues following incidents of racial hate on campus. Ms. Imani's talk will focus on how restorative justice principles, practices, and circles can help shift the consciousness on campuses and in organizations.

2:00 - 3:00 pm

(2) The group will be invited to collect into 6-8 smaller facilitated circle dialogues, to provide the appropriate space for participants to share and digest the issues and emotions brought up by the topic of restorative justice for healing racial harms. The circle keepers will be supplied with a set of questions to guide the conversation around reflections and intentions coming out of the racial healing conversation.

*Mutima Imani*

3:00 – 3:30 pm      **BOOK PRESENTATIONS**      [GH]

“TRANSFORMING JUSTICE, LAW, AND THE PRACTICE OF LAW” –  
Marjorie Silver

“THE DESIRE FOR MUTUAL RECOGNITION: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE  
DISSOLUTION OF THE FALSE SELF” – Peter Gabel

3:30 – 3:45 pm      Break

3:45 – 5:00 pm      **PLENARY SESSION**      [GH]

**HOW DO CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES BY LAWYERS PROMOTE JUSTICE  
AND SOCIAL CHANGE?**

Experienced and new lawyer/practitioners discuss how their approach to law and life have shifted through contemplative practices and how they have used a variety of techniques for insight, strength, compassion and resilience in the struggle for justice and social change.

*Moderator: Alizabeth Newman, Int. Executive Director, Alumni Engagement and Initiatives, CUNY School of Law. Panelists: Sina Choi, staff attorney, Housing Works; Nicholle Kopping-Pavars, attorney, agent, Office of the Children’s Lawyer; Stu Webb, founder Collaborative Law concept; Thalia González, Senior Visiting Scholar, Georgetown Law School, Associate Professor, Occidental College*

5:00 – 5:15 pm      Break/Transition to Breakout Sessions

5:15 – 6:30 pm      **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT/WORKSHOP SESSIONS C**

(#C1)      **USING YOGA TO HELP LAWYERS ADD A SPIRITUAL DIMENSION TO  
THEIR WORK AND TO PROMOTE JUSTICE & SOCIAL CHANGE [Y115]**

The word yoga means “union.” It is a practice of bringing together the mind, body and spirit, not just for personal liberation, but for elevating collective consciousness. When we access our deeper layers of consciousness in a personal spiritual practice, we will undoubtedly bring this work into our law practices and our political systems. Attendees will have the opportunity to unite their minds, bodies and spirits and will have a safe space to explore all of these experiences while being guided by an experienced yoga teacher and lawyer.

*Carrie DeJesus is a yoga teacher and holistic lawyer based in central New Jersey dedicated to providing peace of mind and creating client wholeness.*

(#C2)            **INSTITUTIONALIZING RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN DC**            [Y116]

A panel discussion with local government officials and community partners that are leading the District's recent initiatives in introducing restorative practices and approaches in DC's criminal justice and juvenile justice systems, schools, and public health and safety.

*Moderator: Robert (Roman) Haferd, Restorative Justice Coordinator, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia; Panelists: Tarek Maassarani, Founder, Restorative DC; Seema Gajwani, Section Chief, Restorative Justice and Victim Services, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia; Rashida George, Restorative Justice Coordinator, D.C. Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS); Erika Clark, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, Juvenile Section.*

(#C3)            **THE GEORGIA JUSTICE PROJECT**            [Y117]

The Georgia Justice Project has been among the most significant experiments in new forms of legal practice over the last several decades. In this workshop, a panel of GJP lawyers will unpack how the GJP integrates a spiritual dimension into all of its legal work, from pursuing criminal justice outcomes that can have a positive transformative impact on clients' whole lives, to running a law office that embodies a culture of love and an ethic of service and transmits these values to the wider Atlanta community.

*Doug Ammar, Founder/Director, The Georgia Justice Project; Erin Donohue-Koehler, Staff Attorney, The Georgia Justice Project; Ross Brockway, Law Student, Harvard University, Intern, The Georgia Justice Project*

(#C4)            **RELATIONAL AND TRANSACTIONAL APPROACHES**            [YT16]

What does it mean to be transactional? Relational? A relational approach invites alignment between personal wellness and well-being for others. We will lightly examine our lives, practices, and daily choices that can create greater well-being with a mental shift. Learn a relational skillset to identify and actualize what is possible.

By the end of this highly interactive session, participants will know more about the role of relational practices in well-being, appreciate the difference between relational and

transactional approaches, and recognize opportunities and challenges of implementing more relational practices.

*Louise Phipps Senft, author of Being Relational- The Seven Ways to Quality Interaction & Lasting Change; Chief Visionary Officer of Louise Phipps Senft & Associates/Baltimore Mediation.*

6:30 – 8:00 pm      Dinner break (on your own)

8:00 – 10:00 pm      **MELTING INTO MOVEMENT: GUIDED CEREMONY, MOVEMENT & DANCE JOURNEY**  
[GH]

**\*\*Please wear comfortable clothes that you can dance in.\*\***

Melting into Movement is Atticus' original creative offering that draws inspiration from her passion for visualization meditation, indigenous ceremony, and free form dance. The experience begins with a group ceremony meditation in circle, which has its roots in ancient Mayan-Aztec cultures and has begun to re-popularize around the world in recent years. We journey through a thematic meditation that aims to deepen our connection to movement. We then move through a musical arc that journeys from an ambient opening to a climatic catharsis and tapers to stillness.

*Atticus Bhava is a movement artist and facilitator drawing inspiration from lifelong studies in a myriad of embodiment modalities including classical ballet, modern dance, yoga, Contact Improvisation, and many more.*

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14**

8:00 – 8:30 am      Morning Offering

8:30 – 9:15 am      Continental breakfast (bagels, cream cheese, and the like).

9:15 – 10:30 am      **PLENARY SESSION**      [GH]

### **BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN PARALLEL MOVEMENTS**

This session will bring together representatives from movements such as Therapeutic Jurisprudence, Positive Psychology, the AALS Balance section, the Solidarity Economy, and the Relational Practices Task Force to discuss the intersection of each group's mission with the PISLAP vision of integrating spirituality, law, and politics. Panelists will explore the challenges and opportunities in working together to achieve justice on the individual, interpersonal, and systemic levels beyond that offered by the existing legal system.

*Marjorie Silver, Director of Externship Programs and Professor of Law, Touro Law Center; Lisle Baker, Professor of Law, Suffolk Law School; Susan Jones, Professor of Clinical Law, The George Washington University Law School; Linda Warren Seely, Director, Section of Dispute Resolution, American Bar Association; Amy Uelmen, Visiting Lecturer, Research fellow at Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University Law Center*

10:30 – 10:45 am Break/Transition to Breakout Sessions

10:45 – 12:00 pm **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT/WORKSHOP SESSIONS D**

(#D1) **TEACHING ACCOMPANIMENT & EXPANDING VISIONS OF JUSTICE [Y115]**

What does the concept of “accompaniment” offer clinical teachers as their students journey with clients and each other? What do we offer our clients and students when we expand our goals beyond “justice” to focus on being present, empathetic, and in journey with others?

*Adrian Alvarez, Practitioner-in-Residence, Disability Rights Law Clinic at American University Washington College of Law; Anita Maddali, Director of Clinics & Associate Professor of Law, Northern Illinois University College of Law; Binny Miller, Professor of Law & Director of the Criminal Justice Clinic, American University Washington College of Law; Anita Sinha, Assistant Professor of Law & Director, International Human Rights Law Clinic, American University Washington College of Law*

(#D2) **LAWYERS AS CHANGEMAKERS: UNDERSTANDING & ENGAGING  
CHAOS AND CHANGE [Y116]**

Lawyers are gifted with the ability to identify patterns (think "course of conduct"). This workshop will intentionally engage this superpower to arrive at a general understanding of the role different social values play in creating different models of justice in in the law. In addition, since lawyers who engage in spiritual practice are able to access a perspective of wholeness, this workshop will also invite participants to activate that perspective. The goal? Through generative inquiry, to receive an insight that inspires a new action.

*J. Kim Wright, Consultant, Convener, Coach, Community-Organizer for Cutting Edge Law Enterprises, Inc.; Annabelle Berrios, Social Impact Practitioner*

(#D3) **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, POLITICS, AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION  
[YT17]**

An experiential session where participants will consider the foundational question of how restorative justice can be expanded to the political system to promote social transformation. Participants will also look to collectively problematize about the possibilities for restorative justice to reorient, restore, and redefine power to address systems and structures that reflect centuries-old notions of human hierarchy.

*Thalia González, Senior Visiting Scholar, Georgetown Law School, Associate Professor, Occidental College*

12:00 – 12:15 pm      Break

12:15 – 1:00 pm      **CULTIVATING COMMUNITY: SYNTHESIS & NEXT STEPS**      [GH]

We will close the conference by revisiting our intentions, planting seeds for future connection and support, and rooting our work together in concrete steps for action in our daily lives and home communities.

*Priya Deepika, Angela Gius, Robert Haferd*

To register: [www.spiritlawpolitics.org](http://www.spiritlawpolitics.org)

All listed meals and snacks included in registration fee, unless otherwise indicated.

*Schedule, speakers, session topics subject to change*