



2025 Civil Rights Étouffée

The Étouffée is back in New Orleans on February 13 and 14, 2025!

The 2025 Civil Rights Étouffée (our 5th rendition) is back live in New Orleans on February 13 and 14, 2025 to coincide with the first weekend of Mardi Gras parades.

BRING YOUR SWEETIE SOME CLE FOR VALENTINES DAY!

Please note that DAY 1 begins at 2pm and consists of 3 panels (3 CLE credits) and is a Nuts and Bolts of § 1983 Litigation Bootcamp (see below for more information).

DAY 2 is a full day – 6 CLE credits beginning at 9am with both plenary panels and some hours offering optional A or B panels.

Both days are hosted in the French Quarter at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation's George & Joyce Wein School of Music.

[Register Now!](#)

Spacer



QUALIFYING STATES FOR CLE CREDITS



**California, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky,
Louisiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas,
Utah**

**Thanks to some helpful local chapters, we are hoping for
approval in these jurisdictions:**

Oklahoma, Oregon

***Many other states have reciprocity and self-reporting.**

**New York has reciprocity with Louisiana, so New York
lawyers will receive CLE for the CRE'25 !!!**

**If you want to attend and earn CLE, let us know where
you are from
and we can share materials for your state's approval.**

Program



§ 1983 Litigation Bootcamp

New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation
George and Joyce Wein Jazz & Heritage Center
1205 N. Rampart Street



INTRODUCTION

Whether you're just starting out and are interested in making civil rights work your focus, you want to take a pro bono case, or if you just need to brush up on the basics, this three-session, mini bootcamp will be for you! Seminars, taught by experienced civil rights practitioners, will provide a foundation in the legal claims, defenses, and remedies in a § 1983 cause of action and practical advice to succeed in client management, discovery, and pre-trial resolution.

SESSION 1: 2:05 – 3:05PM

Essentials of § 1983 Claims

This session will cover the basics of the § 1983 cause of action, from the statutory language to the elements of a cause of action, to liability for entities, to remedies, and to attorneys' fees. The session is perfect for someone completely new to § 1983 litigation or someone who might want a refresh on fundamental federal civil rights principles.

PANELISTS: **Elena Cohen**, Delaware Law School - Widener University, Cohen & Green; **Eric Foley**, MacArthur Justice Center; **Hannah Lommers-Johnson**, MacArthur Justice Center; **Lydia Wright**, Promise of Justice Initiative



ELENA
COHEN



ERIC
FOLEY



HANNAH
LOMMERS-
JOHNSON



LYDIA
WRIGHT

SESSION 2: 3:10 – 4:10PM

Essentials of ADA Claims

This expert panel will cover the basics of discrimination claims under Title II / § 504, public-accommodation claims under Title III, potential defenses to these claims, remedies, ways that these claims differ from litigating violations of civil rights under § 1983, and recent developments in the law.

PANELISTS: **Melanie Bray**, Disability Rights Louisiana; **William Goren**, Understanding the ADA; **Anthony May**, Brown Goldstein & Levy; **S. Mandisa Moore-O'Neal**, Center for HIV Law and Policy



MELANIE BRAY



WILLIAM
GOREN



ANTHONY MAY



S. MANDISA
MOORE-O'NEAL

SESSION 3: 4:15 – 5:15PM

Depositions 101

Depos 101 will be presented by two seasoned police litigators from each side of the V. The session will include information on how to prepare to take a police officer's deposition, how to prepare to defend a police officer's deposition; how to prepare to take a plaintiff's deposition in a 1983 police case and how to prepare the plaintiff and defend their deposition.

PANELISTS: **Eileen Rosen**, Rock Fusco & Connelly, LLC; **Wylie Stecklow**, Fordham Law School, Wylie Stecklow PLLC



EILEEN ROSEN



WYLIE
STECKLOW



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SESSION 1A: 9:05 – 10:05AM

Floyd Stop & Frisk: 10 Years Later Lessons in Remediation

This panel will discuss the remedial aspects of *Floyd v. City of New York*. Floyd was tried in 2013 in federal court in SDNY and resulted in a historic judgment finding the NYPD liable for maintaining a policy and practice of racial profiling in street encounters such as stop and frisk. Eleven years later the plaintiff's are still struggling to realize the benefit of that judgment and to implement effective remedial measures. The panel will discuss the progress of the remedial process and how it has only partially satisfied the judgment that was entered and ongoing efforts to implement truly meaningful reforms in this context.

PANELISTS: Jonathon Moore, Beldock Levine & Hoffman;
 Samah Sisay, Center for Constitutional Rights



JONATHON
MOORE

SAMAH
SISAY

SESSION 2A: 10:20 – 11:20AM

It Shocks the Conscience: Bringing Substantive Due Process Claims Against State Actors

Courts often grant qualified immunity to state actors who are accused of violating plaintiffs' substantive due process rights; however, in certain circumstances, where the facts are "conscience shocking," cases have been permitted to proceed.

PANELISTS: Erica Brody, Brody Hardoon Perkins & Kesten LLP (Moderator); Ted Olds, Relman Colfax PLLC; Beth Rivers, Pitt McGehee Palmer Bonanni & Rivers



ERICA
BRODY

TED
OLDS

BETH
RIVERS

SESSION 1B: 9:05 – 10:05AM

The Vestiges of Redlining: Holding Lenders Accountable Under the Fair Housing Act

Fifty-seven years after the passage of the Fair Housing Act, systemic discrimination in housing remains pervasive and has taken on new forms, and the Black/White homeownership gap is as big as it was before the Act was passed. This panel will provide an overview of how fair housing organizations have ferreted out discriminatory practices in areas such as mortgage and appraisal bias, the use of AI, and harm caused to communities by the foreclosure crisis and the management of Real-Estate-Owned properties. It will then discuss the challenges that can be brought and the remedies available, and what actions lenders can and should be taking to affirmatively further fair housing and remedy past harms.

PANELISTS: Lauren DiMartino, Brown Goldstein & Levy (Moderator);
 Pamela Perry, Navy FCU; Stacy Seicshnaydre, Tulane Law;
 Maureen Yap, National Fair Housing Alliance



LAUREN
DIMARTINO

PAMELA
PERRY

STACY
SEICSHNAYDRE

MAUREEN
YAP

SESSION 2B: 10:20 – 11:20AM

Lawyering While Trans Now

This panel will focus on the lived experiences of trans attorneys and the importance of centering trans attorneys in litigation and policy efforts to advance the rights of transgender people in the United States.

PANELISTS: J. Remy Green, Femme Law; Bryanna Jenkins, Lavender Rights Project



J. REMY
GREEN

BRYANNA
JENKINS

PLENARY 1: 11:30AM – 12:30PM

Coming to the Table: Mediation in Civil Rights Cases Big and Small

Civil rights cases are often legally complex and emotionally charged for the litigants. It is also not unusual for there to be significant public interest in the outcomes. These dynamics can make finding a negotiated resolution of such cases especially difficult for the litigants, attorneys, and mediators involved. Drawing on decades of experience mediating civil rights cases both big and small, this panel will explore the unique challenges and possibilities for finding agreement even in the most hotly contested civil rights cases.

PANELISTS: Judge Bernice Donald, 6th Circuit, Ret.; Stephen Haedicke, Law Offices of Stephen J. Haedicke (Moderator); Rachel Terry, Utah State Risk Monitor; Magistrate Judge Karen Wells Roby, Eastern District of Louisiana



JUDGE
BERNICE
DONALD

STEPHEN
HAEDICKE

RACHEL
TERRY

JUDGE KAREN
WELLS ROBY



New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation
George and Joyce Wein Jazz & Heritage Center
1205 N. Rampart Street

**NEW ORLEANS
 JAZZ & HERITAGE
 FOUNDATION, INC.**

SESSION 3A: 1:45 – 2:35PM

CARYL ANDREA OBERMAN EDUCATION PANEL **Brown at 70: The Ongoing Fight for Equal Educational Opportunities for All**

Seventy years after the Supreme Court declared that separate but equal was inherently unequal, this panel will look at issues that persist in public education today that may continue to deprive individuals of the education to which they are entitled.

PANELISTS: **Melissa Candelaria**, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty; **Victor Jones**, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; **Susan Horwitz**, Education Law Project, Legal Aid Society



MELISSA
CANDELARIA



VICTOR
JONES



SUSAN
HORWITZ

SESSION 4A: 3:00 – 4:00PM

1st Am Retaliation and Reputation Harm in 1983

This panel will examine reputational harm damages in the civil rights arena, specifically in First Amendment retaliation cases. Civil rights practitioners often overlook reputational harm damages, and the panelists – all accomplished trial and appellate attorneys – will teach a nuts-and-bolts course on how to litigate with an eye toward establishing reputational harm. Additionally, the panelists will discuss how First Amendment retaliation – either through wrongful arrest or by weaponizing the government to shut down businesses – causes reputational harm to brave citizens who dare to exercise this most crucial right to oppose elected officials.

PANELISTS: **Courtney Caprio**, Caldera Law (Moderator); **Patrick Jaicomo**, Institute for Justice; **Daniel Watkins**, Meier Watkins Phillips Pusch LLP



COURTNEY
CAPRIO



PATRICK
JAICOMO



DANIEL
WATKINS

SESSION 3B: 1:45 – 2:35PM

Qualified Immunity: The Doctrine that Maybe Isn't

This session will delve into the doctrine of qualified immunity – what it is, where it came from, and why it may be based on a basic textual error. Specifically, the speakers will talk about how the doctrine is contrary to the long-forgotten original language of Section 1983. They will also discuss other criticisms of the doctrine and how these arguments can be effectively deployed in advocacy.

PANELISTS: **Lauren Bonds**, National Police Accountability Project; **William Most**, Most & Associates (Moderator); **Jaba Tsitsuashvili**, Institute for Justice



LAUREN
BONDS



WILLIAM
MOST



JABA
TSITSUASHVILI

SESSION 4B: 3:00 – 4:00PM

Civil & Human Rights Violations in Louisiana ICE Detention

This panel will discuss the particularly egregious civil and human rights violations noncitizens face in ICE detention in the state of Louisiana and the difficulties lawyers face challenging those violations. The panel will include action items for those attorneys interested in doing more to address these issues.

PANELISTS: **Sarah Decker**, RFK Human Rights; **Morgan Drake**, National Immigrant Justice Center (Moderator); **Mich González**, Americans for Immigrant Justice; **Rose Murray**, Voting Rights Attorney; **Arely Westly**, Sanctuary New Orleans Abolition Project (SNAP) & SE Dignity Not Detention Coalition



SARAH
DECKER



MORGAN
DRAKE



MICH
GONZÁLEZ



ROSE
MURRAY



ARELY
WESTLY

PLENARY 2: 4:15 – 5:15PM

Procedural Aspects of Impact Litigation: Mapping a Path Forward

What is impact litigation? How do advocates and judges address impact litigation, and how does it differ from other litigation? When a case brings novel claims or applies a new legal theory, it creates unique challenges for litigants and for the court. Our experienced panelists will walk through how these cases are developed, how defenders and trial courts approach them, and how motion practice and settlement efforts work in cases that seek to expand the law.

PANELISTS: **Judge Susie Morgan**, Eastern District of Louisiana; **Margaret A. Bettenhausen**, Assistant Attorney General, Michigan Department of Attorney General; **Cashauna Hill**, Executive Director, The Redress Movement; **Robin Wagner**, Pitt, McGehee Palmer Bonnani & Rivers (Moderator)



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us offset expenses and continue to offer this great CLE at a very reduced
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Hotel Information



Bourbon Orleans

Homewood Suites by Hilton French Quarter Orleans Hotel

317 N. Rampart Street, New Orleans 70112

Street, New Orleans, LA 70116

Accessible Rooms for Hearing and Mobility Impaired

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Register Now!

Laissez L'Étouffée Rouler

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at “FBA Civil Rights Law at gmail dot com” (no spaces).

WHAT IS AN ÉTOUFFÉE?

é·touf·fée
\atoofa\ : A spicy
and delicious
Cajun stew
traditionally
made
with crawfish,
vegetables and
a dark roux,

CONTACT US

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it's not a
gumbo, but it is
distinctively
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