



Corporate Capture of the Legal System

Austin Hall, Harvard Law School

January 27 & 28, 2023



Friday, January 27th

9:45 am: Registration (pastries and coffee provided)

10:15 am: Welcome Remarks

10:25 am: The Problem of Corporate Capture

Ralph Nader

11:25 am: The Corporate Capture of Legislative Politics

Briahna Joy Gray

12:15 pm: Break (lunch provided)

12:30 pm: Lunch Panel, Corporate Capture of Legal Education and the Legal Profession

Logan Campbell, Lisa Fanning, Rosie Kaur, Noelle Musolino, Ellie Olsen, Sam Perri, & Marty Strauss

1:35 pm: Challenging Corporate Power by Agitating, Educating, and Organizing

Sparky Abraham, Molly Coleman, Charity Ryerson, & Bianca Tylek

2:30 pm: Corporate Capture of Legal Media

Maximillian Alvarez, Josie Duffy Rice, Jay Willis, & Sam Perri

3:35 pm: Break (snacks and coffee provided)

4:10 pm: Corporate Capture of the Law

Delana Sobhani, Simone Unwalla, & Falcia Elenberg

5:00 pm: Deep Capture - Legal Sources and Consequences of Corporate Power

Noam Chomsky & Jon Hanson



Saturday, January 28th

9:30 am: Registration (pastries and coffee provided)

10:00 am: Welcome Remarks

10:10 am: Corporate Capture of the Judiciary

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

11:10 am: Justice-Oriented, Counter-Corporate Plaintiffs-Side Lawyering

Lauren Barnes, Jayne Conroy, David Muraskin, Anna Prakash, & Matthew Wessler

12:30 pm: Break (lunch provided)

1:00 pm: 5-4 Podcast Live Recording

Michael Liroff, Peter Shamshiri, Rhiannon Hamam, & David Enrich

2:45 pm: Concluding Remarks

Presented by *The [F]law* in partnership with the Systemic Justice Project.

Co-sponsored by the Harvard Plaintiffs' Law Association, the Harvard Law School Law and Philosophy Society, and The Harvard Law Record.

With special thanks to Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro for generous support.

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Speakers



Anna Prakash

Anna Prakash is a partner at Nichols Kaster, and represents everyday people against corporations and the government. Focusing on complex class actions and multi-plaintiff litigation, Anna has litigated civil rights cases in the employment, school, healthcare, and housing realms, including cases seeking freedom and damages resulting from race discrimination, discrimination against the trans community, and forced labor of immigrant workforces.



Bianca Tylek, @BiancaTylek

Bianca Tylek is the Founder and Executive Director of Worth Rises, a national criminal justice organization working to dismantle the prison industry and end the exploitation of those it targets. Bianca is one of the nation's experts on, and advocates against, the prison industry. She led the first successful campaign in the country to make jail phone calls free, has blocked a major merger in the prison telecom market, and denied prison profiteers millions of investment dollars.



Briahna Joy Gray, @briebriejoy

Briahna Joy Gray is the host of Bad Faith Podcast. She was the National Press Secretary for Bernie Sanders' 2020 Presidential Campaign. Prior to the campaign, she graduated from Harvard Law School and she was a columnist and Senior Politics Editor at The Intercept. She focused on progressive political messaging as well as issues relating to identity and culture. Her work has appeared in The Guardian, New York Magazine, Rolling Stone, Current Affairs, and The Week, among others.



Charity Ryerson, @CorpAcctLab

Charity Ryerson is the Executive Director and Founder of Corporate Accountability Lab. Before CAL, Charity litigated complex international human rights cases under the Alien Tort Statute, Torture Victim Protection Act, and state tort law. She graduated cum laude from Georgetown Law and is admitted to practice in D.C. and Illinois, as well as before the U.S. Supreme Court.



David Enrich, @davidenrich

David Enrich is the Business Investigations Editor of The New York Times. Before that, he was an editor and reporter at The Wall Street Journal in New York and London. He is the bestselling author of three nonfiction books, most recently *Servants of the Damned: Giant Law Firms, Donald Trump, and the Corruption of Justice*. Enrich grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts, and graduated from Claremont McKenna College in California. He lives in New York with his wife and two sons.



David Muraskin, @DavidMuraskin

David Muraskin is a Food Project Senior Attorney with Public Justice in Washington, D.C. His litigation promotes sustainable alternatives to the industrial animal agriculture system and includes constitutional, consumer, worker, and environmental cases. He is lead counsel in two of the “Ag-gag” cases—a series of challenges to state laws that penalize investigations of factory farming. David represents ranchers, farmers, and consumers who are being exploited.



Delana Sobhani

Delana Sobhani is a 2L at Harvard Law School. She is originally from Herndon, Virginia, and received her B.S. from Georgetown University.



Ellie Olsen, @ellieeeeolsen

Ellie Olsen is a 2L at Harvard Law School, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and possesses a Master's in Conflict Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Before law school, Ellie worked for the Public Defender Service for DC.



Falcia Elenberg

Falcia Elenberg is a 3L at Harvard Law School. Throughout law school, she has served as a student attorney in Harvard's Cyberlaw Clinic advocating for a more equitable system of intellectual property. Falcia graduated with a B.S. in Genetics from the University of Wisconsin.



Jay Willis, @jaywillis

Jay Willis is a journalist who covers law, courts, politics, and democracy. He is currently the editor-in-chief at Balls & Strikes. Previously, he was a staff writer at GQ magazine and a senior contributor to The Appeal. His writing has also appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Slate, Defector, and more. Jay graduated from UC Berkeley and Harvard Law School and is based in Seattle.



Jayne Conroy

Jayne Conroy is a named shareholder at Simmons Hanly Conroy, overseeing practice areas in the Complex Litigation Department. Under her leadership, the firm has become one of the country's largest plaintiff law firms dedicated to helping those injured by corporate wrongdoing. Jayne focuses her practice on helping plaintiffs exclusively in mass torts, class actions, product liability, pharmaceutical, and sexual abuse litigation.



Jon Hanson, @TheSituationist

Jon Hanson is the Alan A. Stone Professor of Law, the Director of the Systemic Justice Project at Harvard Law School, and the Co-Director of the Justice Initiative. His teaching and scholarship melds history, the mind sciences, economics, critical race theory, and law. In addition to torts and corporate law, he teaches Systemic Justice, The Justice Lab, and The Critical Corporate Theory Lab. Hanson is the faculty leader for Harvard Law School's Section 6 and the recipient of several teaching awards.



Josie Duffy Rice, @jduffyrice

Josie Duffy Rice is a journalist, writer, law school graduate, and podcast host whose work is focused on prosecutors, prisons, and other criminal justice issues. She is the host of a new podcast, *Unreformed*, and a co-host of *What a Day and Justice in America*. Josie is the former president of *The Appeal*. Her writing has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, and *Slate*.



Lisa Fanning, @itslisafanning

Lisa Fanning is a 2L at Harvard Law School. Before coming to law school, Lisa worked for Johnson & Johnson and graduated with a B.B.A. from Villanova University. She is passionate about consumer protection law, equal access to healthcare, and unveiling the corporate capture of legal institutions.



Lauren Guth Barnes

Lauren Guth Barnes is a partner at Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro, where she focuses on antitrust, consumer protection, and RICO litigation against drug and medical device manufacturers, as well as complex class actions for consumers, large and small health plans, direct purchasers, and state governments. She was honored with the American Association for Justice's Marie Lambert Award in 2018 and has recently served a leadership position in many high-profile class-action cases.

Special thanks to our conference collaborator!

Speakers



Logan Campbell

Logan Campbell is a 2L at Harvard Law School. He is also a graduate of the University of Georgia. Before law school, Logan spent three years as a coordinator for two projects focused on connecting people to free legal services, primarily with pro bono attorneys at big law firms.



Marty Strauss

Marty Strauss is a 3L at Harvard Law School, and the Editor-in-Chief of The Harvard Law Record, Harvard Law School's independent student newspaper. After graduation, he will work as a public defender in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Matthew Wessler, @matt_wessler

Matt Wessler is a principal at Gupta Wessler PLLC, where he focuses on public interest and plaintiffs'-side appellate and complex litigation. He regularly appears before the U.S. Supreme Court. In the past few years, he has argued and won significant class-action, workers-rights, and consumer-protection appeals in federal courts of appeal across the country on issues including arbitration, payday lending, antitrust, civil procedure, class-action practice, and preemption.

Speakers



Maximillian Alvarez, @maximillian_alv

Maximillian Alvarez is the Editor-in-Chief of The Real News Network. He hosts the podcast Working People, is the author of The Work of Living, and has dedicated his life to lifting up the voices of and honoring the humanity of fellow workers.



Michael Liroff, @FleerUltra

Michael Liroff graduated from Fordham Law School in 2014. He worked as an intern under Judge Shira Sheindlin in the Southern District of New York, as an associate at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, and as advisor and general counsel to the political action committee Mobilize America at its founding. Outside the legal industry, Michael worked as a teacher and as an organizer on Barack Obama's 2008 Presidential campaign.



Molly Coleman, @molly_coleman

Molly Coleman is co-founder of PPP and Executive Director of the People's Parity Project, a national nonprofit that organizes law students and lawyers to unrig the law and build a legal system that works for working people, not corporate profits. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review in addition to working for a number of legal organizations committed to advancing justice for the most marginalized.



Noam Chomsky

Considered the founder of modern linguistics, Noam Chomsky is one of the most cited scholars in modern history, and one of the most influential public intellectuals in the world. He has written more than 100 books, his most recent being "Requiem for the American Dream." Chomsky joined the the University of Arizona in 2017, coming from MIT, where he worked since 1955 as professor of linguistics, then professor of linguistics, emeritus.



Noelle Musolino, @noelle_musolino

Noelle Musolino is a 2L at Harvard Law School and a graduate of Penn State. She hopes to go into environmental and/or food law and policy or some other type of public interest work.



Peter Shamshiri, @The_Law_Boy

Peter Shamshiri is a podcaster who co-hosts "5-4" and "If Books Could Kill." He is a former employment law attorney who, despite some recent setbacks, is still technically licensed to practice law in the state of New York. You can read his work in Balls and Strikes.



Ralph Nader, @RalphNader

Ralph Nader is one of America's most effective social critics. His example has inspired a whole generation of consumer advocates, citizen activists, and public interest lawyers who in turn have established their own organizations throughout the country. An author, lecturer, attorney, and political activist, Nader's life-long work and advocacy has led to safer cars, healthier food, safer drugs, cleaner air and drinking water, and safer work environments.



Rhiannon Hamam, @AywaRhiannon

Rhiannon Hamam has practiced as a public defender in both rural and urban jurisdictions, worked as appointed criminal defense counsel in private practice, and as a mitigation specialist in capital post-conviction proceedings. She now co-hosts the "5-4" podcast and works in a law school experiential learning setting. Rhiannon has appeared on MSNBC, podcasts such as Know Your Enemy, and numerous law school panels including one put on by Harvard Law's Justice Initiative.



Rosie Kaur

Rosie Kaur is a 3L at Harvard Law School from Cypress, California. In law school, she participates in Harvard Defenders and serves as a member of the Board of Student Advisors and the the Co-President of the South Asian Law Students Association.

Speakers



Sam Perri, @perri_samantha

Samantha Perri is a 3L at Harvard Law School and graduated from Harvard College. Sam strongly believes that corporations should be held accountable for the systemic injustices that they maintain, and is troubled by the criminal legal system in all respects.



Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, @SenWhitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse represents Rhode Island in the United States Senate, where he serves as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee. He is an experienced prosecutor, a strong voice for the integrity and independence of our courts, and a champion for transparency in our political system. A graduate of Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law, he also served as Rhode Island's U.S. Attorney and state attorney general.



Simone Unwalla, @Simone_Unwalla

Simone Unwalla is a 2L at Harvard Law School and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. Before law school, Simone's work centered on holding powerful organizations accountable for facilitating widespread child sexual abuse. Last summer, she served as a legal intern with the Clooney Foundation for Justice where she contributed to projects seeking to hold corporate actors accountable for financing and facilitating mass human rights violations.



Sparky Abraham

Sparky Abraham is the founder of Jubilee Legal, a consumer and debtors rights law practice in Oxnard CA. Sparky is also the legal strategist for the Debt Collective, a union of debtors. Previously Sparky has worked for Bet Tzedek Legal Services, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and Housing and Economic Rights Advocates.



Thomas M. Sobol

Thomas M. Sobol, who leads Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro's Boston office, has spent his 40-year legal career holding Big Pharma accountable for schemes ranging from pay-for-delay generic drug cases, pricing fraud and antitrust, sham patent litigation and mass torts. Among his career highlights, Tom achieved a \$325 million for third party payers in a class settlement, *In re Neurontin Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation*. He has also served as lead negotiator in settlements totaling more than \$2 billion.

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Abbye Klamann Ognibene

Abbye Klamann is a partner at Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro. She is a core team member in *Staley v. Gilead*, which seeks to hold HIV drug manufacturers accountable for allegedly using their market power to artificially inflate prices for HIV medication. She is involved in cutting-edge litigation in *In re Humira (Adalimumab) Antitrust Litigation*, alleging novel theories regarding the suppression of competition for the blockbuster biologic drug, Humira.



Chris O'Brien

Chris O'Brien is an associate at Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro and works in the class action practice area. Prior to joining the firm, he clerked for the Honorable Mark V. Green, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and the Honorable Andrew M. D'Angelo, Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court. Chris represents employees pro bono in unemployment compensation matters and is also a singer-songwriter.



Danielle Leonard

Danielle is a partner at Altshuler Berzon. Her practice consists primarily of complex litigation. She has represented international, state and local labor unions, environmental groups and other advocacy organizations, and workers, students, and consumers in class actions, in cases involving diverse areas of law including labor law, employment law, voting rights, and other constitutional issues.



Emily Beale

Emily Beale is an advocate for consumers, investors, and employees, fighting unfair business practices by corporations. Prior to joining Gibbs Law Group, Emily worked for two years as a law clerk to the Honorable Benjamin H. Settle in the Western District of Washington. Emily is a 2020 graduate, summa cum laude, of Seattle University School of Law, where she graduated first in her class.



Hannah Brennan

Hannah Brennan is a partner at Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro, and her practice focuses on drug pricing, consumer access to medications, healthcare fraud, antitrust, and patent fraud. She is a member of the team representing a proposed class of insulin consumers in their claims against Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi for unfairly and unconscionably increasing the cost of live-saving insulin medications.



Jessica MacAuley

Jessica MacAuley is a partner at Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro and her practice focuses on nationwide antitrust class actions and consumer fraud. She was recently appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re Xyrem (Sodium Oxybate) Antitrust Litigation* pending in the Northern District of California.



Kristen Johnson

Kristen Johnson is a partner at Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro. Her work at the firm includes contributing to two back-to-back 2021 settlements totaling more than \$450 million each and focuses on rigorously combating waste, fraud, and pricing abuse in the pharmaceutical industry. She has been instrumental in new case investigation work in this area of law.



Lauren Godles Milgroom

Lauren Godles Milgroom has been an associate in Block & Leviton's shareholder litigation practice since 2019. During her time with the firm, she has helped to recover millions of dollars for shareholders. Lauren maintains an active pro bono practice and is a founding board member of Bay State Legal Access, a non-profit firm providing high-quality legal services to underserved and lower-income populations in Massachusetts.



Rachel Downey

Rachel Downey is a staff attorney at Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro, and her practice focuses on pharmaceutical antitrust class-action litigation. She is a core member of the team litigating *In re Zetia (Ezetimibe) Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 2836 (E.D. Va.), a federal antitrust lawsuit against Merck and Glenmark alleging the two unlawfully agreed to delay access to generic ezetimibe for years, resulting in billions in overcharges to purchasers.



Richard Daynard

Dick Daynard has been teaching at Northeastern University School of Law, where he is now a University Distinguished Professor, since 1969. In 1984 he co-founded the Tobacco Products Liability Project (TPLP), to hold the tobacco industry legally accountable for the addiction, disease, and death that its products and behavior cause. He is also President of the Public Health Advocacy Institute, the only litigation shop suing tobacco companies.



Sam Rosen

Sam Rosen graduated from Harvard Law School in 2021 and clerked for the Honorable Justice Serge Georges, Jr. on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. This year he will be a Justice Catalyst Fellow at the civil rights firm Gerstein Harrow. He is also a journalist and has written for The Atlantic, Boston Review, The Ringer, and GQ, among others.



Saranna Soroka

Saranna Soroka is an associate at Block & Leviton. Before Block & Leviton, Saranna was a Legal Fellow at Conservation Law Foundation in Boston. Saranna graduated from Harvard Law School in 2020.



Steve Churchill

Steve Churchill is a co-founder and principal of Fair Work, P.C. Since its inception, Fair Work has recovered tens of millions of dollars on behalf of tens of thousands of workers across the country, obtaining favorable decisions in trial and appellate courts, all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court. He also serves as a lecturer-on-law at Harvard Law School, where he has taught since 2007, including classes on advocacy skills, strategies for social change, and employment discrimination.



Victoria Santoro Mair

Victoria Santoro is a partner at Sweeney Merrigan Law, LLP, having joined the firm as part of its high-exposure trial team. She handles cases including pharmaceutical litigation, wrongful death, product liability, and sexual assault. She obtained a multi-million-dollar verdict against an international hotel chain for the wrongful death of a father of four. Santoro has had several seven-figure plaintiff's verdicts. Santoro is a graduate of Wesleyan University and Boston College Law School.



Mark Byrne

Mark Byrne is an Associate at Block & Leviton LLP, a plaintiff-side firm specializing in securities class actions. While in law school, Mark interned at the National Consumer Law Center and the Environmental Protection Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. Mark graduated from Harvard Law School in 2020.



Catherine Pattanayak

Catherine Pattanayak is the Assistant Dean for Public Service at the Harvard Law School Bernard Koteen Office of Public Interest Advising. She has prior legal experience in the private sector and in government, having served as an attorney with the National Institutes of Health Branch of the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the General Counsel. She received her B.A. from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.



Danna Abraham

Danna Abraham is a commercial litigation attorney at Sperling & Slater. She graduated from Boston College Law School and has a background in journalism and reporting.



Dave Jochowitz

Dave Jochowitz is an Associate at Outten & Golden, where he represents whistleblowers. Prior to joining the firm in 2022, he represented whistleblowers and consumers at two plaintiff law firms in Washington, D.C., and New York. Dave has worked on whistleblower matters at every level of the federal courts, representing clients before trial and appellate courts and acting as part of a Supreme Court amicus team. Dave graduated from Harvard Law School in 2013.



Gregory Matthews

Gregory is the Managing Attorney at the Medicaid Fraud Division at Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. In his role, Gregory coordinates civil investigations and criminal prosecutions of providers who defraud MassHealth and commit nursing home elder abuse. Before that, Gregory was an Associate at Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro, an Assistant District Attorney at the Middlesex DA's Office, and a staff attorney at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.



Jennifer Rafter

Jennifer Rafter is the Associate Director of Membership at the American Association for Justice, the largest association of plaintiff trial attorneys in the country. There, she works with AAJ's member groups: law students, LGBT Caucus, Minority Caucus, New Lawyers Division, and Women Trial Lawyers Caucus. A graduate of the Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America, Jennifer is originally from New Jersey and resides in Washington, D.C.



John Roddy

John Roddy is a Partner at Bailey Glasser. He represents consumers in class actions challenging unfair and deceptive business practices. John regularly writes and speaks on class action practice and consumer financial services law and has published dozens of articles on these topics. He has also co-chaired PLI's Annual Consumer Financial Services Institute for the past 20 years.

Moderators

Eleftheria Papadaki

Ellen Teuscher

Joey Alpert

Lea Kayali

Michael Lehavi

Morgan Hurst

Pranaya Pahwa

Sarah Hart

Suzanna Bobadilla





Thank you to our organizers.

Aaron Nytes

Alexia Roberts

Angela Wu

Arzu Singh

Ben Diamond

Cara O'Neill

Chris Lester

Déborah Alexis

Elizabeth Hopkins

Ellie Samuels

Elyssa Alfieri

Haley Florsheim

Jason Brovich

Jessenia Class

Jessica Grubestic

Joey Alpert

Kathleen McEachern

Logan Campbell

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Michaela Morris

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by Joel Pulliam, j_pulliam_photo.*

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