



Speaker Biographies

EDUCATION

MODERATORS:

Senator Mary L. Washington, *District 43, Baltimore City*



Senator Mary L. Washington is a part-time faculty at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and has taught Critical Race Theory concepts for the institution. Born in Philadelphia to two healthcare professionals, hard work and community have long-served as critical pillars in Mary Washington's life. After receiving her bachelor's degree at Antioch University, she began her professional career teaching at a Catholic elementary school. Her dedication to serving at-risk students and drive to understand the needs of urban communities brought her to Baltimore to study sociology at Johns Hopkins University, where she earned her PhD in 1997. A teaching position at Lehigh brought her back to Pennsylvania, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at

the Population Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Ultimately, however, Baltimore called her back, and it has been her chosen home now for nearly two decades.

After a variety of positions in her city and community, from Director of the Housing Stat Office at the Housing Authority of Baltimore City to Associate Director at the Parks & People Foundation, Mary was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2010, making history as the first openly LGBT African-American elected official in Maryland — and only the second such state legislator in the country. She has represented the 43rd District in Baltimore City since 2018. She has spent over 20 years working as a legislator, advocate and student of public policy.

Delegate Edith J. Patterson, *District 28, Charles County*



Delegate Edith Jerry Patterson, Ed.D represents Charles County's D-28 and is Chair of the Delegation. A former administrator at the College of Southern Maryland, Chair of the Charles County Board of Education, member of MD Higher Education Commission and Vice-Chair of the Charles County Board of Commissioners, she has been a member of the House of Delegates since 2014 and serves on the Ways & Means Committee. In addition to Chairing the Racing & Gaming Subcommittee, she is a member of Local Revenues, 2nd Vice-President Women Legislation of MD, former 1st Vice-Chair Legislative Black Caucus of

Maryland and Maryland Veterans Caucus. She is a graduate of Virginia Union University, Bowie State University and George Washington University.



Speaker Biographies

EDUCATION

PANELISTS:

Dr. Dexter Blackman, *Assistant Professor, History, Morgan State University, James H. Gilliam Jr. College of Liberal Arts*



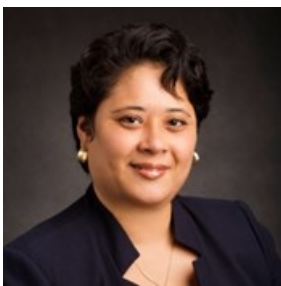
Dexter L. Blackman, PhD is the author of the forthcoming book *We Are Standing Up For Humanity: Black Power, The Myth of the Black Athlete, and the 1968 Olympic Project for Human Rights* and an Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies at Morgan State University. He has also held research fellowships at W. E. B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University, UCLA's Ralph Bunche Center and the University of Chicago's Black Metropolitan Research Center.

Pamela L. Cousins, *Vice-President, Calvert County Public Schools*



Pamela L. Cousins was first elected to the Calvert County Public Schools in 2014 and re-elected in 2018 and currently serves as its Vice-President. The school system adopted an Educational Equity platform for their curriculum. Ms. Cousins served in the U.S. Air Force and has over 27 years of cyber security, project management and leadership experience in building teams and managing secure IT.

Dr. Adrienne Dixon, *Associate Professor, Department of Education Policy, Organization & Leadership, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*



Dr. Adrienne Dixon is a scholar of race & gender equity in urban educational context. Dixon currently serves as an Associate Professor of Critical Race Theory and Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her scholarship examines the intersectionality of race, class and gender in urban educational contexts, with a particular interest in how these issues impact educational equity for students and people of color in the urban south. She is an author of over 30 scholarly journals articles and book chapter and editor of 5 books on Critical Race Theory and education, research and race and urban education.



Speaker Biographies

EDUCATION

PANELISTS:

Marissa Jackson Sow, *Assistant Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law, NYC*



Marissa Jackson Sow joined the faculty in 2021 and teaches Property, Lawyering, and Civil Rights courses. After receiving her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, Marissa earned her J.D. from Columbia Law School, where she served on the *Human Rights Law Review*, and an LL.M., with merit, from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Professor Jackson Sow began her legal career as a litigation associate at Davis, Polk & Wardwell before serving as a law clerk to the Honorable Sterling Johnson, Jr. on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and to the late Honorable Damon J. Keith on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. She also served as a visiting scholar of human rights at the West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal, and as an Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering at the NYU School of Law, before joining New York City government.

Professor Jackson Sow served as the General Counsel in the New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs, and as Deputy Commissioner for Community Relations at the New York City Commission on Human Rights. Before joining St. John's, she was a Leadership in Government Fellow at the Open Society Foundations and a Fellow with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Professor Jackson Sow focuses her scholarship on the human rights implications of contracts and property rights, with a particular focus on race, gender, religion, and the environment. Professor Jackson Sow engages culture, art, philosophy, and is particularly interested in the role that popular iconography plays in social and legal movements. Her scholarship has been featured in a number of academic journals, including the *NYU Law Review Online*, the *Northwestern Law Review Of Note*, and the *Berkeley Journal of African American Law and Policy*.

Follow Professor Jackson Sow on Twitter at [@marissaesque](https://twitter.com/marissaesque).