

# FRIDAY MARCH 11

ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
RACIAL JUSTICE

# CIVIL RIGHTS SUMMIT: PROGRESS THROUGH PARTICIPATION

Keynote Speaker: Justice Melissa Hart,  
Colorado Supreme Court

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TRACK

1:30-2:30pm

### Climate Migrants

<https://bit.ly/3pov1jA>

As the climate crisis continues to develop, more and more people are finding themselves forced to leave their home region due to sudden or long-term changes to their local or regional environment that have compromised their well-being or livelihood. These changes include drought, rising sea levels, disruption in seasonal weather patterns, and desertification. The displaced people are considered climate migrants and our panelists will discuss the challenges that climate migrants face and the actions that are being taken to combat these challenges. Panelists still being finalized.

3:00-4:00pm

### Environmental Justice at a Local Scale

<https://bit.ly/35DQIFC>

In this panel, we will explore grassroots efforts to support disproportionately impacted communities from the adverse effects of oil and gas development, poor air and water quality, and other environmental issues. The panel will also address how we, as community members, can engage in environmental justice movements and bring about positive change. The panel will be moderated by DU Law Professor Tom Romero, and the panelists include Patricia Ferrero of Protége, Olga Gonzalez of Cultivando, and Madeline Schomburg of CSU's Center for Environmental Justice.

## RACIAL JUSTICE TRACK

1:30-2:05pm

<https://bit.ly/3ttPkNM>

### Gail Johnson

Ms. Johnson is a partner at Johnson & Klein, a Boulder based firm that focuses in a variety of areas including criminal defense and prisoners' rights. Ms. Johnson will speak about the issue of racial disparity in prisons.

### Many thanks to our sponsors:

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## RACIAL JUSTICE TRACK (CONT.)

<https://bit.ly/3tPkNM>

**2:10-2:45pm**

### **Sally Roller**

Ms. Roller is the Title IX and Education Investigations Lead Investigator for the Investigations Law Group (ILG). She will be discussing investigations in the education setting involving race.

**2:50-3:25pm**

### **Dean Alexi Freeman**

Dean Freeman is the Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Director of Externships and Social Justice Initiatives at DU Sturm College of Law. Dean Freeman will be speaking about Critical Race Theory in higher education.

**3:30-4:05pm**

### **LaQunya Baker**

Ms. Baker is a current criminal defense litigator who recently joined the Externship Program to assist students navigating field placements in small firms and judicial clerkships. Ms. Baker is the co-owner of Baker Oliver Simpson Law LLC where she primarily represents indigent clients at the trial and post-conviction level. She will be speaking on the issue of race in prisons.

## CLOSING

**4:15pm**

### **Closing Keynote - Professor Tom Romero**

<https://bit.ly/3hCSJEz>

Remarks and summarizing racial justice and environmental justice panels.

**5:30pm**

### **Debrief Session**

<https://bit.ly/3HMtrhQ>

All are welcome to join an informal discussion about the panels and topics discussed.

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# SATURDAY MARCH 12

MENTAL HEALTH AND  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## CIVIL RIGHTS SUMMIT: PROGRESS THROUGH PARTICIPATION

Keynote Speaker: Justice Melissa Hart,  
Colorado Supreme Court

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

11:30am-12:15

**Justice Melissa Hart, Colorado Supreme Court**

[https://udenver.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_l6IFANO5R8GLuKvTwhCl5w](https://udenver.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_l6IFANO5R8GLuKvTwhCl5w)

Justice Hart was appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper to serve on the Colorado Supreme Court on December 14, 2017. Prior to joining the Court, Justice Hart was a professor at the University of Colorado Law School, where she directed the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law. Her teaching and scholarship focused on access to justice, constitutional law, judicial decision-making, legal ethics, employment discrimination, and civil procedure. She is a member of the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations, the Colorado Women's Bar Association, the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the Sam Cary Bar Association, and the Colorado LGBT Bar Association; and is a founding member of the Sonia Sotomayor Inn of Court.

### MENTAL HEALTH TRACK

10:00-11:15am

**Forensic analytics and Trauma-Informed Justice**

<https://bit.ly/3M5OejS>

As legal professionals and members of a community, we should anticipate having to serve and accommodate individuals who may be experiencing mental hardship. Therefore, it is on us to keep ourselves educated and informed about trauma and how it affects individuals. The goal of this panel is to give educational tips and provide methods so that attendees can be more trauma-informed going forward. This will include information on how to communicate with someone experiencing psychosis, how to make sure a person with anxiety is tracking and understanding what their legal counsel is saying, and other ways of approaching such situations with as much awareness as possible. This panel will feature Dr. Apryl Alexander, a professor and the University of Denver's graduate school of psychology, Jennifer Longtin, a defense attorney and Vice President of the Colorado chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Maleeka Jihad, social worker, activist, and the CEO and Director of MJ Consulting, and Dr. Doris Gundersen, physician, forensic psychiatrist, and Medical Director for the Colorado Physician Health Program.

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### MENTAL HEALTH TRACK (CONT.)

2:00-3:00pm

#### Mental Health and Legislation

<https://bit.ly/35dfdJK>

The need for mental health reform is becoming more apparent with every passing year. One of the key areas needing reform is mental health legislation. The goal of this panel is to give attendees an overview of the current state of Colorado's mental health legislation and the legislative process. This panel will discuss C.R.S. §27-65, the codified system of Colorado's mental health care and procedures of involuntary treatment, as well as the drafting process of said legislation. This panel will feature: Lauren Snyder, the Vice President for Government Affairs for Mental Health Colorado who works in collaboration with lawmakers and advocates to create statewide policy; Jonathan Culwell, a practicing attorney in dealing with mental health litigation, and a board member for both National Alliance on Mental Illness, Colorado, and for the Colorado Guardianship Association; Meghan Baker, a former public defender and current attorney at Disability Law Colorado advocating for people with disabilities in jails, prisons, and other facilities; and Michael Whitlow, a former prosecutor now a professor at the University of Denver, Sturm College of law, and an expert in legislative drafting.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRACK

12:15-1:45pm

#### Juvenile Justice Panel

<https://bit.ly/3thPIEm>

For this discussion, Colorado House Representative Jennifer Bacon and Representative Lindsey Daugherty will discuss recent juvenile justice legislation and initiatives that are taking place in Colorado right now. Among other bills and efforts, this panel will discuss youth delinquency prevention and intervention grants (HB22-1003), the right to counsel for youth (HB22-1038), and efforts to reduce youth involvement in the justice system (HB22-1131).

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### CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRACK (CONT.)

2:00-3:00pm

#### Perspective on Life after Incarceration

<https://bit.ly/35ydL4i>

For this discussion, Eric Davis will share his experience serving three decades incarcerated in the Colorado Department of Corrections. Despite going to prison as a teenager and growing up “inside,” Eric found a way early-on to make a positive impact on the world and on those around him. Eric will speak on his experiences inside, his experiences since getting out less than a year ago, and what changes need to be seen in the DOC and in Colorado generally to encourage other people like Eric to reenter the community and lead healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives.

### CLOSING

3:30pm

#### Debrief Session

<https://bit.ly/3HMtrhQ>

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