SYMPOSIUM

Under One Roof: Building an Abolitionist Approach to Housing Justice

November 6, 2020 | 12:30-3:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION:

Sophia House
Legal Fellow, NYU Furman Center

Krystle Okafor
JD Candidate, NYU School of Law

Christopher Shenton
Editor-in-Chief, NYU Law Journal of Legislation and Public Policy

MODERATORS:

Sheryll Cashin
Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law, Civil Rights and Social Justice, Georgetown University

Justin Steil
Associate Professor of Law and Urban Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

PANELISTS:

Amanda Andere
CEO, Funders Together to End Homelessness

Monica Bell
Associate Professor of Law and Associate Professor of Sociology, Yale University

Jacob Faber
Associate Professor, New York University’s Wagner School of Public Service and Department of Sociology

Hilary Malson
Urban Planning Doctoral Student, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

Rasheedah Phillips
Managing Attorney for Housing Policy, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia

Tara Raghuveer
Director, Kansas City Tenants

Barika Williams
Executive Director, Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development
ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

SOPHIA HOUSE  
Legal Fellow, NYU Furman Center  
Sophie House is a Legal Fellow at NYU’s Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy. Her research spans issues relating to housing instability and homelessness. She is a graduate of Yale Law School, where she represented clients challenging housing denials through the New Haven Legal Assistance Reentry Clinic and worked with the San Francisco City Attorney’s Office to develop affirmative public interest litigation. After law school, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Andrew D. Hurwitz of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Her writing on housing and urban policy has appeared in scholarly and popular outlets including the Yale Law Journal, the Fordham Urban Law Journal, Bloomberg CityLab, NextCity, and Shelterforce.

KRYSTLE OKAFOR  
JD Candidate, NYU School of Law  
Krystle Okafor is a JD candidate, Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar, and Moelis Urban Law and Public Affairs Fellow at the New York University School of Law. Before law school, Krystle was a policy analyst in the Philadelphia Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity and a legislative assistant in the affordable housing practice group of a Washington, DC, law firm. Krystle is co-authoring a collection of papers on housing and abolition with Sophie House. On campus, Krystle creates space for critical theory and freedom dreaming with the NYU Law and Political Economy Association.

CHRISTOPHER SHENTON  
Editor-in-Chief, NYU Law Journal of Legislation and Public Policy  
Chris Shenton is a third-year law student at NYU Law, where he serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Legislation & Public Policy, a Student Advocate in the Civil Rights Clinic, and a Research Assistant at the Furman Center. He is also a Voting Rights Intern with the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. Before law school, Chris graduated from UC San Diego with a B.A. in Literature/Creative Writing in 2014, and continued working at the university before coming to NYU.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS

SHERYLL CASHIN  
Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law, Civil Rights and Social Justice, Georgetown University  
Sheryll Cashin is the Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law, Civil Rights and Social Justice at the Georgetown University Law Center. Currently she teaches Administrative Law, Race and American Law, and a writing seminar she recently designed about American segregation, education and opportunity. She has also taught Constitutional Law, Local Government Law, Property, and a seminar on urban development. Professor Cashin was law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Judge Abner Mikva of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. She graduated summa cum laude from Vanderbilt University with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. As a Marshall Scholar, she received a masters in English Law with honors from Oxford University and received a J.D. with honors from Harvard Law School, where she was a member of the Harvard Law Review.

JUSTIN STEIL  
Associate Professor of Law and Urban Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Justin Steil is an Assistant Professor of Law and Urban Planning. Broadly interested in social stratification and spatial dimensions of inequality, his research examines the intersection of urban policy with property, land use, and civil rights law. His recent scholarship has explored the relationship between space, power, and inequality in the context of immigration federalism, residential segregation, lending discrimination, environmental justice, and
mass incarceration. Justin received a B.A. from Harvard College in African-American Studies, an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics in City Design and Social Science, a J.D. from Columbia Law School, and a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from the Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS

AMANDA ANDERE
CEO, Funders Together to End Homelessness
Amanda M. Andere has spent over fifteen years working in the nonprofit and public sector as a leader committed to racial and housing justice through advocacy for systemic change. Prior to joining Funders Together to End Homelessness as their CEO, she served as the CEO of Wider Opportunities for Women, a national advocacy organization. Currently, she serves as a board member of the United Philanthropy Forum and Equity in the Center. Amanda is a founding member and on the leadership team for the National Racial Equity Working Group on Homelessness and Housing. She also serves on the Leadership Council for the DC Partnership to End Homelessness. As a former Co-Chair of A Way Home America, Amanda is a co-conspirator in their work to end youth and young adult homelessness rooted in racial equity.

MONICA BELL
Associate Professor of Law and Associate Professor of Sociology, Yale University
Monica Bell is an Associate Professor of Law at Yale Law School, with a secondary appointment as an Associate Professor of Sociology at Yale University. Her areas of research and teaching include law and sociology, constitutional law, policing and the criminal legal system, welfare and public benefits law, housing law and residential segregation, and race and the law.

JACOB FABER
Associate Professor, New York University’s Wagner School of Public Service and Department of Sociology
Dr. Faber earned his PhD in Sociology from New York University and worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Sociology at Princeton University. He also graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with Master’s degrees in Telecommunications Policy and Urban Studies and Planning and a Bachelor’s degree in Management Science. Between stints at graduate school, Dr. Faber worked as a Senior Researcher for the Center for Social Inclusion, a racial justice policy advocacy organization. His scholarship highlights the rapidly-changing roles of numerous institutional actors (e.g. mortgage lenders, real estate agents, check cashing outlets, and police officers) in facilitating the reproduction of racial and spatial inequality. His work has been published in American Sociological Review, Annual Review of Sociology, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Demography, Social Forces, Housing Policy Debate, and other prominent journals.

HILARY MALSON
Urban Planning Doctoral Student, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs
Hilary Malson is a geography and planning scholar analyzing race, migration, planning histories, and community building in American exurbs. In her current research agenda, she draws from diaspora studies, Black feminism, and Black geographies to study Black community building practices in the context of regional migrations and displacement. Malson is currently a PhD student in Urban Planning at UCLA, a Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellow, a Graduate Student Researcher at UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy, and a Graduate Student Researcher at Monument Lab. Over the past decade, she has worked at the intersection of public history and community organizing. She has conducted research and developed programming for a range of institutions, including the Smithsonian Institution, the Southern California Library, the Thomas Mann House, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As a scholar activist committed to conducting ethical community-based work, she contributes to police accountability organizing in Washington, D.C. and the Inland Empire, youth development in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, and housing justice organizing with the Los Angeles Center for Community Law and Action. Hilary holds a BA in the Growth and Structure of Cities from Haverford College and a MSc in Urbaniza-
tion and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She proudly hails from Washington, D.C.

RASHEEDAH PHILLIPS
Managing Attorney for Housing Policy, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Rasheedah began her career at CLS in 2008 in the Community Economic Development Unit, providing legal advice, representation, and engaging in community lawyering on behalf of small childcare for profit and non-profit organizations. She also briefly served in CLS’ Homeownership and Consumer Rights Unit providing mortgage foreclosure defense and bankruptcies to protect residential homes. She has trained on racial justice and housing law issues and skills throughout the country, previously serving as the Senior Advocate Resources & Training Attorney at Shriver Center on Poverty Law. Rasheedah is the recipient of the 2017 National Housing Law Project Housing Justice Award, the 2017 City & State Pennsylvania 40 Under 40 Rising Star Award, the 2018 Temple University Black Law Student Association Alumni Award, the 2018 CLS Equal Justice Award, and the 2019 Barristers Association of Philadelphia Outstanding Young Attorney Award. She is a 2016 graduate of the Shriver Center’s Racial Justice Institute, 2018 Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity, and recently awarded a research fellowship with Vera List Center for Art and Politics at the New School.

TARA RAGHUVEER
Director, KC Tenants
Tara Raghuveer is the director of the Homes Guarantee campaign at People’s Action. She is also the founding director of KC Tenants, a grassroots tenant organization in Kansas City, Missouri. Under Tara’s leadership, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Homes Guarantee campaign has led the national fight to cancel rents and mortgages while KC Tenants has taken action to shut down evictions through direct action. For seven years, Tara has spearheaded eviction research in Kansas City through the Kansas City Eviction Project, a collaborative of data scientists, community leaders, academics, and lawyers. Tara cut her teeth organizing in the immigrant rights movement. Tara’s research on eviction and poverty in Kansas City is cited in the Pulitzer Prize-winning book Evicted. She is an Australian-born, Indian-American immigrant who came to the US with her family in 1995 and grew up in Kansas City.

BARIKA WILLIAMS
Executive Director, Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development
Barika X. Williams is the Executive Director of ANHD, a leading non-for-profit focused on creating housing and economic justice for all New Yorkers. Ms. Williams previously served as the Assistant Secretary for Housing for the State of New York under Governor Andrew M. Cuomo where she managed the NY’s major housing priorities including the $20 billion housing plan and expanding tenant protections statewide. While with NYU’s Metropolitan Center for Urban Education and the Urban Institute in Washington, DC, she worked on innovative initiatives and published on topics including affordable housing practices, foreclosures, urban mobility, disaster recovery, and the links between health, education, and housing on neighborhoods. Ms. Williams is the 2020 recipient of APA-NYM’s Robert W. Ponte Award for her commitment to a more just NYC build environment that understands systemic racism’s intersection to place and community. She received a Master in City Planning from the MIT and a BA from Washington University in St. Louis.