The Amaker Retreat aims to capture the spirit of our late professor, Norman Amaker, who fought alongside leaders like Thurgood Marshall and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to transform the social justice landscape by challenging racial discrimination during the civil rights era.
Agenda

8:30 AM  BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

9:00 AM  WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
  • Associate Dean Spencer Waller, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

9:10 AM  THE SPIRIT OF NORMAN C. AMAKER
  • Professor Neil Williams, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

9:30 AM  SESSION #1
  IMMIGRATION: IMPACT OF CURRENT POLICIES AND OUR ROLE AS ADVOCATES
  • M. Laura García, Moderator, Law Student, Loyola University Chicago School of Law
  • dre cummings, Indiana Tech Law School
  • Priscilla Orta, Community Activism Law Alliance
  • Sufyan Sohel, Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) - Chicago
  • Maria Woltjen, The Young Center

10:45 AM  BREAK

10:50 AM  SESSION #2
  OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO VOTING RIGHTS
  • Mo Khan, Moderator, Attorney
  • José Alonso, Attorney and Community Activist, Back of the Yards
  • Anita Earls, Southern Coalition of Social Justice
  • Ruth Greenwood, Campaign Legal Center

11:50 AM  BREAK

12:00 PM  LUNCH EVENT
  FEATURED SPEAKER: LAW, RESISTANCE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
  • Cornell William Brooks, president and CEO, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), introduced by Nana Otutuah-Amoah, President of Black Law Student Association, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

1:20 PM  BREAK

1:30 PM  SESSION #3
  SEARCHING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN THE LEGAL ECOSYSTEM
  • La’Mont Williams, Moderator, Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry, PC
  • Melanie Moore, Union of Concerned Scientists
  • Ashley Munson, Illinois Environmental Council
  • Allison Renville, Activist, Dakota Access Pipeline
  • Rev. Booker Steven Vance, Faith in Place
  • Anjali Waikar, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
3:00 PM  BREAK

3:10 PM  SESSION #4
COST OF CORRUPTION: CHICAGO IS NOT BROKE!
• Hugh Mundy, Moderator, John Marshall Law School
• Jaime Kalven, Invisible Institute
• Jonathan Peck, Alternatives, Inc.
• Tom Tresser, The CivicLab

4:25 PM  MINI-SESSION
HOW TO RESPOND IN A CLIMATE OF HATE
• Julie Justicz, Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.

4:45 PM  BREAK AND PIZZA

5:00 PM  DINNER EVENT: SESSION #5
CRIMINAL INJUSTICE
• Sacha Coupet, Moderator, Loyola University Chicago School of Law
• Laura Caldwell, Life After Innocence, Loyola University Chicago School of Law
• Antione Day, Life After Justice
• Mary Ramirez, Washburn University School of Law
• Steve Ramirez, Loyola University Chicago School of Law
• Scott Turow, Author and Attorney

6:15 PM  CLOSING & CALL TO ACTION
• Sherrilynn Bevel, Addie Wyatt Center for Nonviolence Training
• Cosette Hampton, BYP 100

6:30 PM  BOOK SIGNINGS & REFRESHMENTS

Featured Speaker

CORNELL WILLIAM BROOKS

Cornell William Brooks is president and CEO of the NAACP, the nation’s oldest, largest and most widely respected civil rights organization is the culmination of both a notable career advocating for equality and justice and an enduring family legacy of fighting for civil rights. Prior to joining the NAACP, Brooks was the president of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and worked as a civil rights attorney, housing and social justice advocate and as a fourth-generation minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Brooks has served for many years on the East Orange Hospital Board of Trustees and leads the NAACP’s national agenda to improve the health and well-being of African American families and families of color. Mr. Brooks graduated from the Boston University School of Theology with a Master of Divinity and Yale Law School.