



# LEGISLATION & POLICY BRIEF

American University Washington College of Law

## AULPB Spring 2023 Panel: Civil Rights and the Supreme Court

**Friday, April 21st at 12 PM via Zoom**

*The 2022-2023 Supreme Court term has involved cases with the potential to change the landscape of civil rights work. Join civil rights experts and attorneys as they discuss the implications of upcoming decisions for the future of voting rights, affirmative action, and preventing discrimination.*



**Sunu P. Chandy**

LEGAL DIRECTOR

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER



**Valencia Richardson**

LEGAL COUNSEL FOR VOTING RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER



**Alex Ault**

POLICY COUNSEL

LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS  
UNDER LAW



**Professor Stephen Wermiel**

PROFESSOR OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW &  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM ON LAW &  
GOVERNMENT



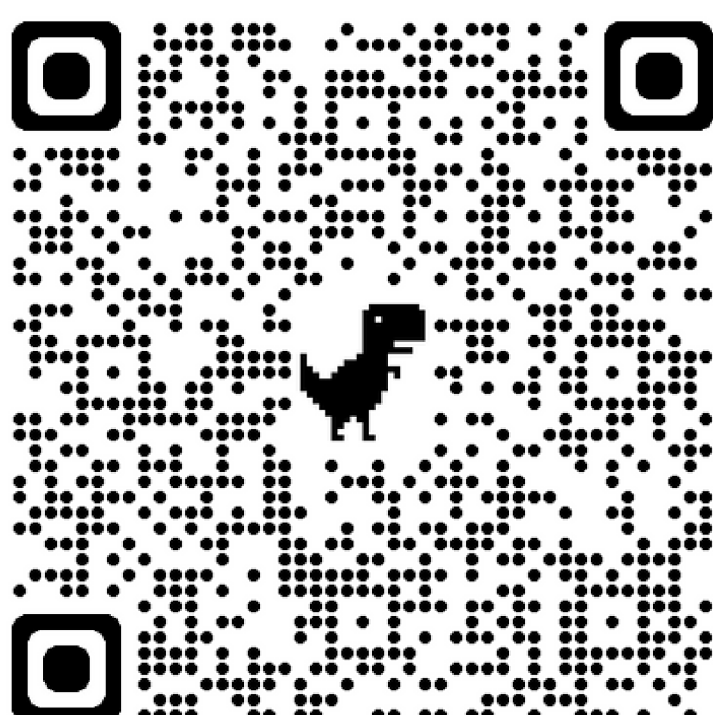
**Molly Cain**

JOHN PAYTON APPELLATE AND SUPREME  
COURT ADVOCACY FELLOW  
NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND



**Juliet Beckstrand**

SYMPOSIUM EDITOR, AULPB  
J.D. CANDIDATE, 2024



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# ABOUT THE PANELISTS



**Sunu P. Chandy**

LEGAL DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

Sunu P. Chandy (she/her) is a social justice activist through her work as a civil rights attorney and a poet. Sunu started as the legal director at the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) in 2017, where she provides strategies to create better outcomes for women and girls including in schools, workplaces, and the healthcare sector. She also supports the NWLC's Workplace Justice policy work and LGBTQI+ rights related work. Sunu has testified in Congress in support of the Equality Act, and serves on the board of the Transgender Law Center. Before joining NWLC, Sunu was the Deputy Director for the Civil Rights Division with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and as the General Counsel of the DC Office of Human Rights (OHR). Previously, Sunu was a federal attorney with the U.S. Employment Opportunity Commission. At EEOC, in addition to litigating civil rights cases, Sunu led several outreach initiatives including as a member of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAPPI) Regional Working Group. Sunu began her legal career as a law firm associate representing unions and individual workers in New York City. Sunu received her B.A. in Peace and Global Studies/Women's Studies from Earlham College, a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law and an MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry) from Queens College/The City University of New York. Sunu was honored as one of the 2021 Queer Women of Washington and one of Go Magazine's 100 Women We Love: Class Of 2019. Sunu's collection of poems, *My Dear Comrades*, was selected for the 2021 Terry J. Cox Prize, and published by Regal House in March 2023.



**Valencia Richardson**

LEGAL COUNSEL FOR VOTING RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER

Valencia's work focuses on addressing local-level election compliance under the Voting Rights Act in the Deep South. Prior to joining CLC, Valencia was a voting rights organizer and activist. Before law school, Valencia was a Fulbright grantee to Mexico and a student voting rights organizer for the Andrew Goodman Foundation, for which she served as a board member. She is the author of a nonfiction book, "Young and Disaffected," and published "Voting While Poor: Reviving the Twenty-Fourth Amendment and Eliminating the Modern-Day Poll Tax" in the *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy*. Valencia has litigated various voting rights cases in state and federal court, including *Pascua Yaqui v. Rodriguez*, *Pettaway v. Galveston County*, as well as *Aguilar v. Yakima County*, the first case litigated under the Washington Voting Rights Act. Valencia is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center (J.D., 2020) and Louisiana State University (B.A., 2016).



**Alex Ault**

POLICY COUNSEL  
LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS  
UNDER LAW

Alex Ault joined the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law as Policy Counsel in April 2022. Prior to joining the Lawyers' Committee, he worked as a policy consultant at All Voting is Local, where he focused on eliminating needless and discriminatory barriers to the ballot at the state and local levels while fighting for positive policy changes concerning voter registration, ballot access, and vote certification. Alex graduated from Michigan Law in December 2019. While in law school, Alex interned at the ACLU Voting Rights Project and FairVote. He was named a Next Generation Leader by the American Constitution Society, co-founded a voting rights law student organization, and served as Special Prosecutor for student elections. Alex also graduated with honors from Saint Louis University with a degree in political science. Before law school, Alex worked at the Center for American Progress, and for the Every Citizen Counts voter registration campaign. He also served in the Missouri Governor's office and worked on a United States Senate Campaign in Iowa. He has written reports for All Voting is Local, FairVote, and the ACLU and had pieces published in *Democracy Docket*.



**Molly Cain**

JOHN PAYTON APPELLATE AND SUPREME COURT  
ADVOCACY FELLOW  
NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Molly Cain is the John Payton Appellate and Supreme Court Advocacy Fellow at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Prior to working at LDF, Molly worked as a Senior Researcher at the Center for American Progress, and interned with the ACLU of Virginia and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. She clerked for U.S. Judge Carlton W. Reeves of the Southern District of Mississippi. Molly graduated from Stanford University in 2015 and received her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2020.