



## February 27, 2021

### 33rd Annual Dr. Sadie T.M. Alexander Commemorative Conference

Time: All Day

Please join the University of Pennsylvania Black Law Students Association for our 33rd Annual Dr. Sadie T.M. Alexander Commemorative Conference, which celebrates the life of Dr. Alexander, the first Black woman to graduate from Penn Law in 1927. Since 1988, Penn BLSA has held an annual conference to honor Dr. Alexander's legacy by delving into legal issues that are pertinent to the Black community and committing to progressive legal advocacy.

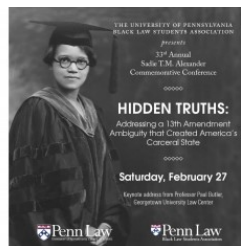
#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All attendees must register for the Sadie Conference through the registration website below. Following registration, attendees will receive an email on February 25, 2021 with a link to join the Sadie Conference via Zoom. **In lieu of the formal gala, BLSA will provide all attendees gift cards to order dinner during the Sadie Conference.** As this year's Sadie Conference is virtual, we encourage you to share this invitation with your family, friends, and colleagues. Please **RSVP** for the Sadie Conference no later than **February 23, 2021**.

#### ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

This year's Sadie Conference is entitled **Hidden Truths: Addressing a 13th Amendment Ambiguity that Created America's Carceral State** will explore the prison abolition movement. Despite the emancipation of the 13th Amendment, Black Americans remain oppressed at the hands of the law. The criminal punishment system today can be traced back to slavery, where prisons are used to maintain and reinforce the disenfranchised state of Black Americans in society. Although the carceral system aims to rehabilitate criminal offenders on its face, in practice, it further reinstates the subjugated status of black people and preserves a racial capitalist power structure. This year's conference will explore the prison abolition movement, including discussions regarding its historical analysis, the school-to-prison pipeline, and practical policy making and reform. We look forward to a robust conversation about fostering a society that focuses on freedom and justice instead of profit and punishment.

Our first panel entitled **History of the 13th Amendment: From Slavery to Mass Incarceration**, features Professor Flores Forbes, Professor William Carter, and Professor Kendall Thomas. The panel will address the roots of today's mass incarceration, which are in those Black Codes, and how its history makes it difficult to fight systemic racism and transform our broken justice system. The discussion will highlight the deep connection between slavery and our criminal justice system, how the practice of mass incarceration and excessive punishment is the legacy of slavery, and how the criminal justice system was strategically arranged to force Black Americans back into



2021 Sadie Conference

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a system of extreme oppression and control - a tactic that would continue to prove successful for generations to come. University of Pennsylvania Law School professor and Sadie Tanner Mossell Professor of Civil Rights, Dorothy Roberts, will moderate this panel.

Our second panel entitled **The Road to Freedom: Abolishing America's Prison System**, offers insight from Professor James Gray Pope, Professor Monica Bell, Professor Jallia Jefferson Bullock, and Professor Taja Nia Henderson. The panel will address the long-lasting, harmful impacts of imprisonment on people of color, and viable alternatives to rectify societal harms. The discussion will highlight disproportionate policing in marginalized communities, delegating public safety to local agencies instead of law enforcement, funding programs that eliminate crime-breeding conditions and inequalities, the parole-to-prison pipeline, and relevant legislation. University of Pennsylvania Law School professor Shaun Ossei-Owusu will moderate this panel.

The Conference will conclude with a keynote address from Professor Paul Butler. If you have any questions, we will be happy to provide further information. We look forward to seeing everyone on February 27th!

RSVP here: <https://sadieconference.ticketleap.com/33rdsadieconference/>

*This program has been approved for 3.0 total CLE credits (1.0 substantive credit and 2.0 ethics credit) for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. **Attendees seeking CLE credit must register for CLE credit and make a payment via the online CLE registration link** in the amount of \$120.00 (\$60.00 public interest/non-profit attorneys).*

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