

University of Maine School of Law presents the
2021 JUSTICE FOR WOMEN LECTURE
The Impact of Climate Change on
Indigenous Women Around the World



MAINE
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW
LAW

Thursday, April 15, 2021
12:00 - 1:30 pm
Virtual Via Zoom

2021 Justice For Women Lecture

Welcome Video:

- > **Secretary Deb Haaland**
U.S. Secretary of the Interior

Introduction:

- > **Leigh I. Saufley**
Dean, University of Maine School of Law

Reading:

- > **Joan Naviyuk Kane**
Inupiaq Writer, Harvard, Scripps & Tufts Faculty

Panel Discussion:

- > **Joaqin Estus (Moderator)**
National Correspondent, Alaska Bureau of Indian Country Today
- > **Galina Angarova**
Executive Director, Cultural Survival
- > **Quannah ChasingHorse**
Land Protector and Climate Activist
- > **Sherri Mitchell**
Lawyer, Author, and Indigenous Rights Activist
- > **Sara Olsvig**
Ph.D. Fellow and Former MP of Greenland

Closing Remarks and Q & A:

- > **Catherine Lee**
Founder & Manager, Lee International

Courage is Contagious Video Presentation

- > **Donna Loring**
2021 Courage is Contagious Recipient
- > **Blanca Santiago**
2020 Courage is Contagious Recipient

The Justice For Women Lecture (JFW) Series brings a distinguished speaker to Maine annually to present a public lecture and to contribute to a global conversation about justice for women and girls in the developing world. The Lecture Series was established in 2011 with the generous support and leadership of Catherine Lee of Lee International.

To support the Justice for Women Lecture Series with a gift, please contact the Office of Advancement at 207.780.4521 or make your gift online at mainelawcommunity.org/donatejusticeforwomen. Gifts to the Justice For Women Lecture Fund help grow the endowment to better support the lecture series and its community programming.

Speaker Biographies

Moderator



Joaqlin Estus is a national correspondent for the Alaska bureau of Indian Country Today, an online news platform. You can read some of her work at indiancountrytoday.com. She covers everything from climate change, COVID-19, and resource development to the lack of broadband in Indian Country and homelessness.

Since 1990 she's worked as a reporter for several radio stations in Alaska and at Minnesota Public Radio as well as director of public communications for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Earlier she worked in coastal management and as a historian. She has a B.A. in history from University of Alaska Anchorage.

Reader



Joan Naviyuk Kane (Inupiaq) is the author of several collections of poetry and prose. She teaches creative writing at Harvard University, is a lecturer in the Department of Studies in Race, Colonialism and Diaspora at Tufts, and was founding faculty of the graduate creative writing program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. She is a 2020-2021 Visiting Fellow of Race and Ethnicity at The Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America at Brown University, and is the 2021 Mary Routt Endowed Chair of Creative Writing and Journalism at Scripps College.

She has served on the boards of King Island Native Corporation and Native American Alumni at Harvard University, was on the management team of Sitnasuak Native Corporation, and in 2008 was detailed as staff to the Denali Commission. She directed the Alaska Native Policy Center of the First Alaskans Institute, worked as a public policy consultant and research analyst for the consulting firm Information Insights, and has worked extensively with tribes, Native corporations, non-profits, foundations, and governmental and inter-governmental clients throughout the circumpolar north. She was trained as a journalist as a Fellow of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and reported from Alaska and New York City from 2000-2002 as an employee of Koahnic Broadcast Corporation.

Speaker Biographies

Panelists



Galina Angarova is a representative of the Ekhirit nation of the Buryat Peoples, a Russian Indigenous group. Galina is currently serving as the Executive Director of Cultural Survival, an Indigenous-led NGO and U.S. registered non-profit advocating for the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Galina comes to Cultural Survival after serving as program officer at the Swift Foundation, and prior to that, as representative of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group at the UN. Previously, Galina was the Russia program director at Pacific Environment, where she organized direct actions against large resource extraction projects in Siberia and the Russian Far East.



Quannah ChasingHorse is from the Han Gwich'in and Oglala Lakota tribes and lives in Fairbanks, Alaska. She is an Indigenous land protector for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, protecting those sacred lands from oil development and fighting for climate justice. Quannah's deep connection to the lands and her people's way of life guides and informs everything she does and stands for. She is passionate about Indigenous rights, MMIWG and representation. She is an avid snowboarder, guitar player, and is apprenticing as a traditional Indigenous tattoo artist. Quannah was honored to make the 2020 list of Teen Vogue's "Top 21 under 21."



Sherri Mitchell -Weh'na Ha'mu Kwasset was born and raised on the Penobscot Indian reservation. She received her J.D. and a certificate in Indigenous People's Law and Policy from the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law. Sherri is an alumna of the American Indian Ambassador program, and the Udall Native American Congressional Internship program. Sherri also received the Mahoney Dunn International Human Rights and Humanitarian Award, for research into Human Rights violations against Indigenous Peoples. She was a longtime advisor to the American Indian Institute's Healing the Future Program and currently serves as an advisor to the Indigenous Elders and Medicine People's Council of North and South America. She is the Founding Director of the Land Peace Foundation, an organization dedicated to the global protection of Indigenous rights and the preservation of the Indigenous way of life. Prior to forming the Land Peace Foundation, Sherri served as a law clerk to the Solicitor of the United States Department of Interior; as an Associate with Fredericks, Peebles and Morgan Law Firm; a civil rights educator for the Maine Attorney General's Office, and; as the Staff Attorney for the Native American Unit of Pine Tree Legal. Sherri is the author of the award-winning book *Sacred Instructions; Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change*.

Speaker Biographies

Panelists (continued)



Sara Olsvig is a Ph.D. Fellow at Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland. She is the current chairwoman of Greenland's Human Rights Council and an assigned member of the Constitutional Commission of Greenland. She served as a Member of the Parliament of Denmark and the Parliament of Greenland in the years 2011 to 2018 and has been leader of the political party Inuit Ataqatigiit. Sara was Vice Premier and Minister of Social Affairs, Families, Gender Equality and Justice in the Government of Greenland from 2016 to 2018. She was also the Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region. Sara holds a M.Sc. in Anthropology. She had previously worked as Executive Director for the Inuit Circumpolar Council Greenland and is now a delegate to the Council. She is Inuk and lives in Nuuk with her partner and their children.

Courage is Contagious Awards



Donna M. Loring (2021 Recipient) is an elder and former council member of the Penobscot Indian Nation. She entered into public service when she joined the Women's Army Corp. She served in Vietnam as a Communication Specialist, processing all the casualty reports for South East Asia. She was one of few enlisted women in the Vietnam War who served in a combat zone.

For over a decade, Donna was the Nation's Representative to the Maine State Legislature. She was appointed Aide de Camp to former Gov. Angus King and also served as the Senior Advisor of Tribal Affairs to Gov. Janet Mills.

Donna hosts "Wabanaki Windows" on WERU Community Radio. The University of New England houses her papers and sponsors an annual lecture series in her name. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters by the University of Maine, and the Alumni Career Award from the University of Maine Alumni Association.



Blanca Santiago (2020 Recipient) is a licensed clinical social worker who has spent three decades developing visibility, safe spaces, and resources for BIPOC, LGBTQIA individuals and others experiencing the effects of structural and societal oppression. After retiring last year, Blanca contracted with Portland Public Schools to help address issues of diversity and equity in the district. She supports a new generation of BIPOC social workers and is a consultant to Presente via Mano en Mano; in that capacity Blanca supports the behavioral health staff that serve Latinx and immigrant communities. She serves on the board of ILAP and the Foundation for Portland Public Schools. She is the founding member and president of El Centro Latino of Maine and has worked on three immigration reform campaigns over the last 15 years. Blanca holds an undergraduate degree in Organizational Leadership and a Master of Social Work.

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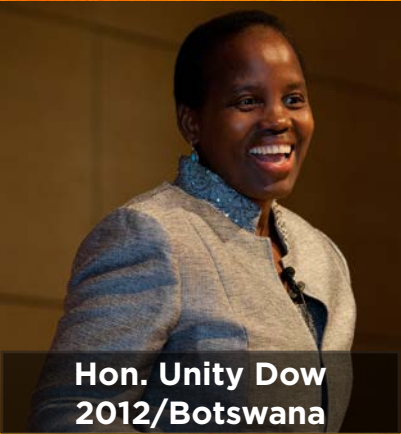
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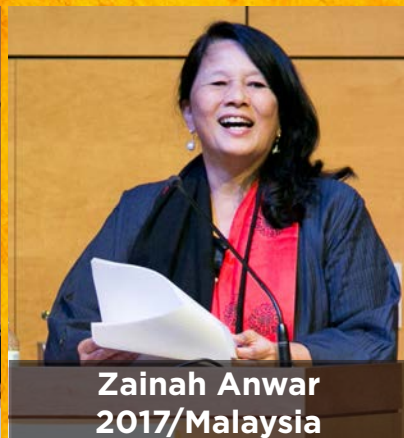
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