

September 25, 2023

Welcome to the Gibson-Banks Center for Race and the Law. Our mission is to work collaboratively and interdependently to re-imagine and transform institutions and systems of racial and intersectional inequality, marginalization, and oppression. The Center carries forth the legacies of Larry Gibson and Taunya Banks, Maryland Carey Law's first Black tenured professors who, through their teaching, scholarship, advocacy, and service, have committed their lives to racial equity and justice.

Baltimore is the heartbeat of the Gibson-Banks Center. The Center is *for* Baltimore and *of* Baltimore. While the Center's work will extend beyond the city, all of the work will connect to issues that resonate deeply here.

The Gibson-Banks Center is community focused, responsive to issues identified by individuals and communities suffering through racial and intersectional oppression. As such, a critical step in the Center's formation involved outreach to diverse stakeholders to solicit input on potential areas of focus for the Center's work. Based on their input, the Center's focus areas are the Criminal Legal System; Economic Justice; Employment; Education; Housing; Health; Voting/Redistricting; Technology; Transportation; and Emerging Issues (mutations of oppression and injustice). The Center will engage these focus areas in three ways, which we term the Tools of Transformation: 1) Education and Engagement; 2) Advocacy; and 3) Research.

We look forward to utilizing the Gibson-Banks Center's strengths as a servant organization housed in a law school that has long been at the forefront of legal education for fusing theory and practice. Maryland Carey Law's commitment to Baltimore—and to Maryland—is exemplified by the expansive legal services that our Clinical Law Program provides to individuals, families, communities, and organizations who otherwise would not have access to justice. That commitment is also manifested in scholarship and service aimed at improving the law and the lives of those harmed, limited, devalued, and endangered by laws, policies, practices, systems, and institutions. We are outraged by racial and intersectional exclusion, isolation, marginalization, oppression, and punishment. We are fueled by conviction and humility to work in partnership with stakeholders in Baltimore, in Maryland, and throughout the United States who are committed to researching, redressing, re-envisioning, and rebuilding.

More to come. Much more.



Michael Pinard
Faculty Director, Gibson-Banks Center for Race and the Law