

# The Symposium

## A Summary

By

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The Diversity and Social Justice Forum hosted its 5th Annual Symposium on November 15, 2019, titled "The People's Lawyer."

The focus of the Symposium was to explore how lawyers can use different

lawyering models or strategies to challenge implicit biases in the legal system and move together towards creating systemic change.

Implicit bias in the legal system is a multi-faceted issue and one that affects various communities. Thus, the Diversity and Social Justice Forum invited judges, attorneys, legal

professionals, social activists, and community leaders who have witnessed or worked against implicit bias and advocating for change. We heard from these multitude of speakers discuss the role that implicit bias plays in the policing

delved into the issues of implicit bias in the courtroom and the criminal justice system. Justice Halim Dhanidina delivered the Keynote Address, in which he emphasized the importance of diversity in the legal field and

California Court of Appeal, and as a Deputy District Attorney. He is the first Muslim appellate level judge in the United States and is the first South Asian American to serve as an appellate justice in the State of California.

Furthermore, he was appointed to the Los Angeles County Superior Court in 2012, making him the first Muslim judge in California history.

The first panel titled: Restoring Justice was a discussion

about the ethical and moral dilemmas that exist in prosecution, policing and juvenile justice and how methods such as



system, prosecution and trials.

The Symposium consisted of three-panels and a Keynote Address that

more specifically the courtroom. Justice Dhanidina shared his reflections based on his experience as an associate justice for the Second District of the

Alternative Dispute Resolution and Court Watching prevent injustices from occurring. The panel featured Dr. Tamara Alexander, co-director of the Mediation Clinic at Chapman University, Fowler School of Law, Adrienna Wong, senior staff attorney at ACLU So-Cal, and Professor Mario Mainero, the Executive Director of Bar Prep and Academic Achievement at Fowler School of Law. The panel was moderated by the former co-chair of the Diversity and Social Justice Forum, Dominique Boubion.



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The second panel titled: The Crime of Being Without a Home explored the impact of the case Catholic Workers v. Orange County, the misconceptions and biases that exist about the homeless population and the homelessness situation in Orange County. The panel featured Carol Sobel, a civil rights attorney from the National Lawyers Guild, Brooke Weitzman, the co-founder of the Elder Law and Disability Rights Clinic and David Gillanders, the executive director of Pathways of Hope. The panel was moderated by

the panel featured trial attorneys who shared their experiences on how they tackled race and gender biases in the courtroom through their trials. They shared their knowledge on how to recognize biases and tools to ensure a fair jury trial. The panelists included trial attorneys: Kimberly La Salle, Pamela Dansby, Lynda Vitale and Henry Salcido. The panel was moderated by public defender and Fowler School of Law alumnus, Michael Funk.

co-director of the Bette and Wylie Aitken Family Protection Clinic, Professor Wendy Seiden.



The final panel titled: Implicit Bias in the Courtroom featured panelists of trial attorneys who shared their experiences on how they tackled race and gender biases in the courtroom through their trials. They shared their knowledge on how to recognize biases and tools to ensure a fair jury trial. The panelists included trial attorneys: Kimberly La Salle, Pamela Dansby, Lynda Vitale and Henry Salcido. The panel was moderated by public defender and Fowler School of Law alumnus, Michael Funk.

**Thank you, Speakers of  
the 6th Annual  
Symposium!**