



## **About Denise Morgan**

Denise Morgan, an expert on race, public schools, and federalism, credits her immigrant parents with instilling in her a deep sense of the value of education, an interest that she pursues professionally through teaching, research, writing, and by acting as an advocate for fiscal equity in public education.

“My parents are immigrants from the West Indies who arrived in this country without a great deal of money, but with very good educations,” Professor Morgan explains. “I believe in the power of a strong public education system to create social, political, and economic mobility. I also understand that our public school system has never lived up to its full potential—that’s what drives my work.”

As part of her education policy advocacy, Professor Morgan has represented the Black, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Legislative Caucus, and filed several amicus briefs on behalf of the Caucus in a landmark case against New York State to establish equity in public school funding for New York City’s schoolchildren. Her work in the field—articles for legal journals and commentary for major media outlets like CNN—has covered such topics as single-sex schools and desegregation law.

Before joining the New York Law School faculty in 1995, Professor Morgan, who received both her B.A. and her J.D. from Yale University, gained practical legal experience as a law clerk for the Honorable Marilyn Hall Patel, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, and as an associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton. It was at this firm that she started working on a pro bono case that inspired her research into public school finance litigation.

The history of race in the United States is another area of interest for Professor Morgan, who admires the work of novelist Toni Morrison and has touched on similar themes in her own writings.

She has studied black boxing heavyweight Jack Johnson, writing about him as the reluctant hero of the black community. She was also interviewed for a Ken Burns documentary on Johnson, *Unforgivable Blackness*, that was released in January 2005.

She has applied her interests in education and antidiscrimination law to develop two new elective courses: *Education Policy and the Law*, and *Race: A Historical & Legal Investigation of Antidiscrimination Principles*. “In order to understand antidiscrimination law, you have to appreciate the role that race has played in creating and maintaining hierarchy in the United States—it has been used to determine who is entitled to opportunity and who will be deprived of opportunity,” Professor Morgan says.

Her most recent scholarly work has focused on federalism and civil rights. She is the principal editor of *Awakening from the Dream: Civil Rights under Siege and the New Struggle for Equal Justice* (with Rachel D. Godsil and Joy Moses). The book, which stems from a Columbia Law School conference celebrating the birth of the National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights, exposes how the Supreme Court's Federalism Revolution has rolled back civil rights. She spoke on the same subject at the American Constitution Society's National conference in 2005.

She is the author of several articles published in scholarly publications including "The New Parity Debate: Congress and Rights of Belonging" (with Rebecca E. Zietlow), published in the *Cincinnati Law Review*, "The New School Finance Litigation," published in the *Northwestern University Law Review*, and "Antisubordination Analysis after *United States v. Virginia*: Evaluating the Constitutionality of K-12 Single-Sex Public Schools," published in the *University of Chicago Legal Forum*. She is the coeditor of a seminal article, "Breaking into the Academy: The Michigan Journal of Race and Law Guide for Aspiring Law Professors" published biannually between 1996 and 2002.



## **About Rachel D. Godsil**

Rachel D. Godsil teaches Equality Under American Law, Property, and Zoning and Land Use Policy at Seton Hall University School of Law. Professor Godsil has been involved in environmental justice law and policy, and has recently been working with attorneys representing the South Camden Citizens in Action. Prof. Godsil has written extensively on the convergence of race, poverty, and the environment. Her publications include: Viewing the Cathedral from Behind the Color Line: Property Rules, Liability Rules, and Environmental Racism, 54 EMORY L. J. 1808 (2004); Environmental Justice and the Integration Ideal, 59 NY L. J. 1109 (2004); Expressivism, Empathy and Equality, 336 U. MICH. J.L. REF. 247 (2003); Jobs, Trees, and Autonomy: The Convergence of the Environmental Justice Movement and Community Economic Development, co-author with James Freeman, 5 U. MD. J. CONTEMP. LEGAL ISSUES 25 (1993-94); The Question of Risk: Incorporating Community Perceptions into Environmental Risk Assessments, co-author with James Freeman, 221 FORDHAM URBAN L.J. 547 (1994); and Note, Remedying Environmental Racism, 90 MICH. L. REV. 394 (1991).

Prior to joining the Seton Hall School of Law faculty in 2000, Prof. Godsil was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, an Associate Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, an associate with Berle, Kass & Case and Arnold & Porter in New York City, and a law clerk for the Honorable John M. Walker, Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She received her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and her J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School. At Michigan, Prof. Godsil served as the Executive Article Editor of the Michigan Law Review, was awarded the Henry M. Bates Memorial Award, and was elected to the Order of the Coif.

## **About Joy Moses**

Joy Moses is a staff attorney with the Education Project. As such, she provides technical assistance and trainings to advocates; attorneys; families; and school, school district, and state administrators on various issues related to children and youth experiencing homelessness. She also engages in federal and state level policy and legal advocacy designed to increase educational and life opportunities for homeless students.

Prior to joining the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, Ms. Moses was an Equal Justice Works fellow at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF) where she worked on an assortment of education and federalism issues. She received her J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law Center where she had opportunity to advocate on behalf of juvenile offenders, provide assistance to special education advocates, and serve on the board of a D.C. area charter school. Ms. Moses received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University.