Midwest Regional Convening Schedule of Events
October 14-15, 2016

Friday, October 14, 2016, 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Weinberg/Newton Gallery, 300 W Superior Street, Suite 203, Chicago, IL 60654

The Right to Vote in 2016, 4:00 p.m.
Join the ACLU of Illinois for a panel discussion on the obstacles to and the progress seen on protecting the right to vote in 2016. A panel of ACLU attorneys will discuss a broad range of voting rights issues related to this year's presidential election. (CLE credit in the state of Illinois is pending approval for this session.) The panel discussion will begin at 4:00pm, and it will be followed by a reception from 5:00pm-6:30pm. RSVP for this session specifically by contacting Mike Kang at mkang@aclu-il.org or 312-201-9740 ext. 329.

Saturday, October 15, 2016, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, 375 E Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

Registration and Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. (Lincoln Hall)

Welcome and Opening Remarks, 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. (Lincoln Hall)
Join Chicago-based and nationally recognized ACS leaders for welcoming and opening remarks. Speakers include Ngozi Nezianya (Student Member, ACS Board of Directors & President, Northwestern Law ACS Chapter), Geoffrey Stone (Former Provost, University of Chicago and Former Chair, ACS Board of Directors), and Meghan Paulas (ACS Director of Student Chapters).

Plenary Session: ACS Gavel Gap Report, 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Lincoln Hall)
The ACS Gavel Gap report discovered that women and minorities are underrepresented in state courts across the country. They graded states based on how non-diverse their state judges are in relation to the population that they serve. Minnesota was the only state in the Midwest to score as high as a “C” – every other state received a “D” or an “F.” Illinois received a “D” score, with 53% of state court judges being white men, whereas the Illinois
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population consists of only 31% white men. This panel will discuss the current lack of
diversity in the state judiciary, why diversity in these courts matters, and what should be
done about the issue moving forward. Speakers include Hon. Mary Jane Theis (Illinois
Supreme Court), Hon. Rossana Fernandez (State of Illinois Circuit Court of Cook County),
Hon. Patrice Ball-Reed (State of Illinois Circuit Court of Cook County), Elizabeth Monkus
(Chicago Appleseed), and Suyash Agrawal (moderator) (Partner, Massey & Gail, LLP).

Breakout Session: The Left Frontier – Charting the Next Progressive Legal
Movement, 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Strawn Hall / McCormick 195)

For the first time in decades, the ideological balance of the federal judiciary could soon rest
on the left. The ongoing vacancy at the Supreme Court and the prospect of confirming
Judge Merrick Garland (or perhaps a more liberal justice) could shift decision-making at
our nation's highest court. Despite obstructionist efforts and lengthy confirmations
processes for his nominees, President Obama's successful appointments to federal Courts
of Appeal have infused those courts with a majority of judges who may be more receptive
to progressives' legal arguments. How, then, should progressives seize this moment? Join
this panel of scholars and leading advocates as they contemplate new avenues for
advancing progressive jurisprudence and shifting the law in a more inclusive, liberal, and
socially just direction. Speakers include Andrew Koppelman (Professor, Northwestern
Law), Sheila Bedi (Attorney, MacArthur Justice Center), Meleah Geertsma (Senior
Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council), Viviana Martinez (Asst. Special Legal
Counsel, Office of the Cook County President), and Theo Lesczynski (moderator) (Member,
Northwestern Law ACS Chapter).

Breakout Session: Higher Ed & Labor: Discussing the Impact of Columbia
University, 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Rubloff 180)

Join ACS as it discusses the unionized academy. In the recent NLRB's decision, Columbia
University, the NLRB decided that graduate students may unionize. With graduate
students already beginning unionization efforts and school administrations already
critiquing the decision, the future of the academy looks uncertain. Our panelists will
discuss this uncertainty through historical analogies, law resulting from the Columbia
University decision, and what to expect from graduate programs as a result of the
decision. Speakers include Amy Moor Gaylord (Partner, Franczek Radelet) and Hiba
Hafiz (Lecturer, University of Chicago Law School).
**Networking Lunch**, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Atrium)

Enjoy lunch with ACS student members, scholars, private sector attorneys, and public interest advocates from across the Midwest and learn about ways to advance progressive values in various career paths. Remarks will be provided by Amy Gardner (ACS Director of Lawyer Chapters).

**Breakout Session: Police Accountability – Has Judicial Deference Gone Too Far?,**
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Strawn Hall / McCormick 195)

The Court has historically been deferential to the actions of police officers, emphasizing police deference over affirmative rights of citizens. The current disconnect between police officers and communities plagued with violence opens a new debate on the need for more affirmative constitutional rights to protect communities against biased police officers. The discussion will focus on the Constitution’s role in protecting communities from police brutality. Speakers include David Shapiro (Attorney, MacArthur Justice Center), Juan Perea (Professor, Loyola University Chicago School of Law), Marc Falkoff (Assoc. Dean and Professor, Northern Illinois University College of Law), Jeffrey Cummings (Partner, Miner, Barnhill & Galland), and Lari Dierks (moderator) (Director of External Relations, Northwestern Law ACS Chapter).

**Breakout Session: The First Amendment and the Right to Protest,**
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Rubloff 180)

During the current era of violence and protest, this panel will discuss First Amendment rights and evaluate the right to speak against perceived governmental injustice. These forms of speech and protest are well-ingrained in popular American culture, from Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf's NBA protests during the 1980's-90's, Muhammad Ali refusal to fight in Vietnam, and the infamous 1967 Sydney Olympics when Tommie Smith and John Carlos received their medals, heads down, one gloved fist in the air during the anthem. The panel will include a discussion of political speech, the rights of protesters, “Free Speech Zones”, and how to know when First Amendment rights are being threatened. Speakers TBA.
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Closing Session: Protecting the Right to Vote – How Law Students Can Get Involved and Why It Matters, 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Lincoln Hall)

As Election Day approaches, the continued threat of voter suppression is an especially important issue for progressives. Protecting the right to vote for all Americans is the key to protecting the democratic process in the United States. As law students and lawyers, we have a unique opportunity to meet the increasing need for skilled individuals to protect this fundamental right on Election Day. Through expertise and personal experience, outstanding attorneys will discuss the state of voting rights in the Midwest and the importance of election protection efforts for citizens throughout the region. Speakers include Daniel B. Rodriguez (Dean, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law), Michael Kasper (Counsel, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP) and Senator Toi Hutchison (Illinois General Assembly).

After the convening, join event organizers for a celebratory drink (cash bar) at

The Windsor, 60 E Huron St, Chicago, IL 60611
5:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.