

# LINGUISTICS ON TRIAL: RACE, LANGUAGE AND THE LAW



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

5:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

(REGISTRATION/MIXER 5:30 - 6:00 P.M. | PROGRAM 6 - 8:00 P.M.)

UCI LAW SCHOOL, DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION, YOSEMITE BALLROOM, BLDG 8

*DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED*

## PROGRAM

Dr. Sharese King shares her research on the emerging problem of bias against non-standard English speakers, as distinguished from non-English speakers. While it is universally accepted to enlist a foreign language translator when a court user does not speak English, the remedies of how to address non-standard English speakers in court are less clear. Bench officers, attorneys, jurors and court users are often unaware of the biases they harbor when hearing non-standard English, including biases assuming the speaker is less educated, and/or less credible. Dr. King will also discuss the use of African-American Vernacular English and its impact on the criminal trial against George Zimmerman for the death of Trayvon Martin.

## DISCUSSION FACILITATORS

Hon. Sheila Hanson  
*Assistant Presiding Judge*  
Hon. Richard Y. Lee, *Chair*  
Hon. Michele Bell  
Hon. Bryan Clavecilla  
Hon. Lee L. Gabriel

Hon. Juliet O. Macaulay  
Hon. Karen L. Robinson  
Hon. Yolanda Torres  
Hon. Brian Waite  
Hon. Carmen Snuggs-Spraggins  
Rebekah F. Thomas, Esq.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Sharese King is the Neubauer Family Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the University of Chicago. Her research examines "racializing" language practices and its implications within the judicial system in the United States. Dr. King has a coauthored editorial in The Los Angeles Times and has published in journals such as Language and Nature.

**Register Online at [ocbar.org](https://ocbar.org)**

*Cost: \$30 (Free for Sitting Bench Officers & Law Students)  
1.0 Hours MCLE Implicit Bias Credit and 1.0 Hours  
Elimination of Bias Credit*

*This activity has been approved by the State bar of California in the amount of 2.0 hour(s) as appropriate to the content of the activity, 1.0 hour shall be Implicit Bias MCLE credit and 1.0 hour shall be Elimination of Bias MCLE credit. OCBA is a state bar approved MCLE provider and certifies that this activity conforms to the standards for approved education activities prescribed by the rules and regulations of the State Bar of California governing MCLE. Attendees must watch the program in its entirety in order to receive Participatory MCLE credit. Partial credit will not be given. Cancellations must be received in writing via fax or email 3 business days prior to the meeting. OCBA reserves the right to substitute speakers.*

*Presented by Orange County Superior Court,  
Thurgood Marshall Bar Association, Orange  
County Bar Association and University of  
California, Irvine School of Law*