

17th Annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession

EMPOWERING VOICES • DRIVING IMPACT LEADING IN A NEW ERA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Angela A. Allen-Bell

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Angela A. Allen-Bell holds the B. K. Agnihotri Endowed Professorship and is currently a full professor at Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Professor Bell is a respected local, national, and international legal scholar and expert on the interplay between race and justice. Her research catapulted the movement to end the use of non-unanimous juries in Louisiana, and she is one of the founding members of the advocacy team that led this effort to reform Louisiana's jury system through the adoption of legislation requiring unanimous juries in criminal trials in Louisiana state courts. She has the distinction of having worked on several other historic advocacy campaigns, such as the 50th Commemoration of Students United and the 1972 Southern University student movement, the Angola 3 case, Soledad Brother John Clutchette's case, Vincent Simmons' case, and the case of Robert Holbrook. She also spent years engaging in narrative change work on behalf of the Black Panther Party and has become a formidable authority on the group's history. In January 2022, when Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards issued a posthumous pardon to Homer Plessy, Professor Bell was selected to speak as the historian for the occasion. She is also an author. She recently released a three-book series that begins with "Under Indictment: Race, Juries and Justice in Louisiana."

She is an activist-scholar who has made many media appearances and participated in many local, national, and international collaborations to discuss her scholarship and advocacy work. She is the founder of The Justice Center, an organization that aims to transform the legal system and other systems that harm, as well as center the perspectives and experiences of people of color who interface with these systems. She is a member of the National Black Lawyers—Top 100, an invitation-only society, and the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, an invitation-only society whose membership is limited to one percent of lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction. In January 2025, the Center for African and African American Studies at Southern University at New Orleans recognized her as its 2025 Living Legend Award recipient. In 2024, CIO Views Magazine named her one of the "Top 10 Most Influential Leaders Making an Impact in the Legal Industry." Prior to this, the Girl Scouts Louisiana East named her a Woman of Distinction, the Drum Newspaper selected her as one of its "People for 2021," she was named a Louisiana Leading Lady, she received the National Civil Rights Conference Civil Rights and Social Justice Award, and, following a national search, she was selected as a member of the first cohort of the Culture of Health Leadership Institute for Racial Healing (2022).