A Community Legal Forum on
Hate Crimes, Extremist Activities,
and Bias Incidents
in Western Massachusetts

Friday, March 31, 2017
12:00 noon – 3:30 p.m.

The recent election and subsequent executive appointments have created a high level of uncertainty for politically marginalized groups. Both the news media and nonprofit organizations that monitor hate and bigotry are regularly reporting an increase in these incidents. While these crimes are often discussed at the national level, it is important that communities be alert to local activities that directly affect the lives of their neighbors, families, and friends.

With this in mind, Western New England University School of Law is hosting A Community Legal Forum on Hate Crimes, Extremist Activities, and Bias Incidents in Western Massachusetts to discuss how communities in western Massachusetts may be affected. This event is open to the public and geared toward local residents, advocates, and all affected constituencies.

The Forum will feature representatives from local law enforcement, government agencies, educational providers, community organizations, and faith based groups that are involved in these issues on a daily basis. The panelists will discuss their perspectives on these current events and explain how interested students and community members can become involved in reducing these incidents.

This Forum is intended to provide accurate and current information, to reduce misinformation in our community, and to further constructive conversation and collaboration.

If you have any questions regarding the forum, please contact Assistant Clinical Professor Bob Statchen at rstatchen@law.wne.edu or 413-782-1469.

Hosted by
WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY
School of Law

SCHEDULE AND PARTICIPANTS
Complimentary Light Buffet Lunch Served: 12:00 noon

Panel 1: Law Enforcement, Government and Public Education: 12:15 – 1:30 p.m.
Moderated by Professor Tina Cafaro

- Supervisory Senior Resident Agent Julia Cowley, FBI, Boston Division, Springfield Resident Agency
- Commissioner Sunila Thomas George, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination
- Sergeant John Delaney, Springfield Police Department
- Dr. Andrea C. Kandel, National Conference for Community and Justice
- Assistant Attorney General Ann Lynch, Consumer Protection and Civil Rights, Western MA Division
- Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin O’Regan, District of Massachusetts, Springfield Branch

Panel 2: Community and Faith Based Organizations: 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Moderated by Professor Bridgette Baldwin

- Attorney Tahirah Amatul-Wadud, Commissioner on the MA Commission on the Status of Women and Executive Board Member on the Council on American Islamic Relations-Massachusetts (CAIR-MA)
- Executive Director Meris Bergquist, Massachusetts Fair Housing Center
- Rabbi Amy Wallk Katz, Ph.D., Temple Beth El
- Professor Jennifer Levi, Transgender Rights Project Director, GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAAD)
- Pastor Marisa Ludwig, Communications Coordinator, Interfaith Council of Western Massachusetts
- Executive Director Mehlaqa Samdani, Critical Connections

Additional Q&A: 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Friday, March 31, 2017
12:00 noon – 3:30 p.m.