

INITIATIVE *on*
LAND, HOUSING &
PROPERTY RIGHTS

BOSTON
COLLEGE | LAW

Heirs' Property and the Preservation of Affordable Housing Conference

Our 2025 national conference is dedicated to addressing an important set of critical issues at the intersection of housing and heirs' property. We will highlight various housing-related challenges heirs' property owners often face and some of the policy, law reform, direct services, and community engagement work that is being done to transform heirs' property ownership from an often problematic, highly unstable form of ownership into ownership that can be sustainable and productive in economic and many non-economic ways. Working together, we can better empower families to preserve their homes, retain and build wealth, and strengthen communities.

Date and Time

June 12, 2025, 2pm to June 13, 2025, 6:30pm (EST)

Location

Stuart House 315
Boston College Law School
885 Centre Street
Newton, MA

[View on Google Maps](#)

Reception Location

Barat House
Boston College Law School
885 Centre Street
Newton, MA

[View on Google Maps](#)

Agenda

Thursday, June 12

2:00 – 2:30 pm

Check-In

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Coffee & Networking

3:00 – 3:15 pm

Welcome Remarks

- Professor Thomas Mitchell, Boston College Law School, Director of the Initiative on Land, Housing & Property Rights, Robert F. Drinan, S.J. Endowed Chair

3:15 – 3:45 pm

[Heirs' Property Photo Project](#) and Q&A

- Presenter: Rachel Loischild

3:45 – 5:15pm

Opening Roundtable and Q&A: The State of Housing and Strategies for Stabilizing Homeownership for Heirs

Moderator: Abigail Suarez, JPMorganChase, Head of Neighborhood Development within the Office of Corporate Responsibility

Speakers:

- Symone Crawford, Massachusetts Affordable Homeownership Alliance (MAHA), Executive Director
- Senator Lydia Edwards, Massachusetts Legislature, State Senator
- Solomon Greene, Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, Executive Director of Land and Communities
- Alexander Hermann, Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, Senior Research Associate

5:15 – 6:30 pm

Reception at Barat House

Friday, June 13

8:00 – 8:30 am

Check-In & Breakfast

8:30 – 8:55 am

Welcome Remarks

- Dean Odette Lienau, Boston College Law School, Marianne D. Short, Esq., Dean
- Professor Thomas Mitchell, Boston College Law School, Director of the Initiative on Land, Housing & Property Rights, Robert F. Drinan, S.J. Endowed Chair

8:55 – 10:00 am

Panel 1: Heirs' Property and Middle Neighborhoods

Moderator: Christopher J. Tyson, National Community Stabilization Trust (NCST), President

Panelists:

- Ashley Williams Clark, Detroit Future City (DFC), Vice President
- Dr. Bill McKinney, New Kensington Community Development Corporation, Executive Director
- Michael Neal, Urban Institute, Senior Fellow in the Housing Finance Policy Center

10:10 am – 11:15 am

Panel 2: Heirs' Property State Law Reform and the UHPA

Moderator: Professor Thomas Mitchell, Boston College Law School, Director of the Initiative on Land, Housing & Property Rights, Robert F. Drinan, S.J. Endowed Chair

Panelists:

- Jacy Fisher, Gregory Varner & Associates, Senior Associate Attorney
- Scott Kohanowski, Center for NYC Neighborhoods, General Counsel
- Matthew Lawrence, Players Coalition, Former NFL Player
- Jane Sternecky, Uniform Law Commission, Legislative Counsel

11:20 am – 11:40 am

Lunch Available for Pick Up

11:40 am – 12:40 pm

Luncheon with Keynote Speech and Fireside Chat

Keynote Speaker: Arthur L. Fleming, Owner and Principal of Fleming Connection and Former Senior Vice President and Director of Community Investment Services for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta

Fireside chat with Professor Thomas W. Mitchell, holder of the Robert S. Drinan S.J. Endowed Chair and Director of the Initiative on Land, Housing and Property Rights at Boston College Law School following the keynote address.

12:50 – 1:55 pm

Panel 3: Preventing Heirs' Property Formation: New Estate Planning Legal Services Initiatives

Moderator: David Price, Boston College Law School, Special Projects Manager at the Initiative on Land, Housing & Property Rights

Panelists:

- Destini Agüero, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Senior Clinical Instructor and Estate Planning Project Director
- Peter J. Hamilton Jr., Hamilton Realty Co., Real Estate Broker and Attorney
- Bertha Sanchez Hayden, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Associate Vice President of Justice for Seniors and Justice for Dependent Adults
- Keeva Terry, Howard University School of Law, Professor of Law

2:05 – 3:10 pm

Panel 4: Financing Products for Heirs' Property Owners

Moderator: John Sapora, LISC Jacksonville, Housing Resiliency Program Officer

Panelists:

- Ruth Gao, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Associate General Counsel
- Karama Neal, Asset Funders Network, Strategic Project Director
- Greg Perelka, CHN Housing Capital, Executive Vice President of Lending Operations

3:10 – 3:30 pm - COFFEE BREAK

3:40 – 4:45 pm

Panel 5: Building Infrastructure for Heirs' Property and Rural Housing through Policy and Partnerships

Moderator: Josh F. Walden, Esq., Center for Heirs' Property Preservation, Chief Operations Officer

Panelists:

- Andrea' Barnes, Mississippi Center for Justice, Director of the Heirs' Property Campaign
- Brianna Jackson, Center for Heirs' Property Preservation, Director of Legal Services
- Nancy Lee, Habitat for Humanity South Carolina, Executive Director
- Amy Pritchard, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Legal Consultant

4:55 – 5:10 pm

Closing Remarks

- Professor Thomas Mitchell, Boston College Law School, Director of the Initiative on Land, Housing & Property Rights, Robert F. Drinan, S.J. Endowed Chair

5:20 – 6:30 pm

Reception at Barat House