

Bio for Samuel V. Jones

About

Samuel Vincent Jones is as professor of law, associate dean, and one of Chicago's leading public intellectuals and legal scholars.

Education

Jones earned his advanced law degree, with recognition, from Columbia Law School in New York City. He holds a Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from Texas Southern University. He completed his undergraduate degree at Chaminade University of Honolulu, where he majored in Philosophy.

Legal Career

Prior to joining the tenured law faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Jones practiced commercial litigation at K&L Gates (formerly, Hughes & Luce, LLP), one of the nation's largest law firms. Thereafter, he served as senior counsel at AT&T, and later as corporate counsel for labor and employment at Blockbuster, Inc., then the nation's largest home entertainment company. Jones was one of two law professors to be the first African American males in the 117-year history of the law school to receive the rank of *full professor* and Jones is the law school's first African American male academic dean.

As multiple legal publications, press releases, television appearances, and commentators attest, Jones is one of the nation's leading criminal law experts, particularly regarding police accountability and human trafficking. Jones has consistently worked closely with state and federal governmental bodies relative to criminal law, including conducting training for U.S. Department of Homeland Security attorneys and instruction for Illinois state judges, as well as serving as an expert witness for members of the Illinois legislature.

For example, amid adoption of the SAFE-T Act, which is largely recognized as one of the most comprehensive criminal justice reforms bills in the United States, members of the Illinois legislature issued a public statement describing Jones's work as "crucial" to the passing of the historic legislation. One legislator remarked, "The reforms laid out in HB 3653 are crucial to building a more equitable Illinois. Systemic problems require systemic solutions. Ending cash bail, holding law enforcement responsible for their actions, addressing officer wellness and mental health, and every other provision in this bill work to fundamentally restructure how we think about the criminal justice system and how it serves the communities across Illinois. We were delighted to have Professor Jones address our colleagues in the legislature and receive questions from the floor and appreciate his expertise throughout this process. His commitment to criminal justice reform was crucial to this work."

A consummate advocate for improvements within the criminal justice system, Jones served on the Chicago Innocence Center Board of Directors to assist wrongly convicted individuals. He also served on the Cook County Justice Advisory Council Board, chaired by Illinois Supreme Court Justice P. Scott Neville, which implements criminal and juvenile justice reforms in Cook County.

Widely known for his seemingly incomparable dexterity and prowess over an extraordinary variety of complex legal issues, Jones has authored a series of highly influential publications, particularly relative to ethics and criminal jurisprudence. His work has been cited in textbooks and journals at some of the nation's most prestigious institutions, including, Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Georgetown, and Berkeley, the U.S Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, as well as the United Nations. Jones has served on the visiting residential faculty at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and the University of Florida Levin College of Law and has presented his work at some of the world's leading universities, including, Harvard and Oxford.

His research has facilitated historic legal advances in Illinois criminal court procedure. For instance, after the publication of his highly regarded commentary, *An Oppressive Cook County Courtroom*, the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County issued General Administrative Order No 2014-06, which rebuked certain practices in Cook County criminal courts. The *Chicago Tribune* subsequently published, *Judge Sullivan, Take Notes: A Law Professor Schools a Cook County Judge in the First Amendment*, which identified Jones's work as the catalyst for the historic improvement in Cook County criminal court procedures. Later, Jones would appear on *Chicago Tonight*, one of Chicago most popular new shows, to discuss the state of Cook County's judiciary.

His work, *White Supremacist Infiltration of Law Enforcement: An FBI Report Nearly Forgotten*, was a social media phenomenon that garnered millions of viewers and alerted the nation to the critical problem of right-wing extremist serving in police departments around the nation. His warnings on the extremist threat in law enforcement have appeared in numerous leading news publications. Interestingly, more recently, *The New York Times* published *Extremists in Uniform Put the Nation at Risk*, which essentially made the same contentions Professor Jones posited years ago. Jones has also appeared on various TV news platforms such as *NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt*, *Chicago Tonight* and *Huffington Post Live*.

Additionally, in recognition of his accomplishments as a legal scholar and dedicated civic leader, the Illinois Supreme Court has repeatedly appointed Jones to instruct the Illinois judiciary on best practices. To cite but one example, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed Professor Jones to teach Illinois judges a course titled, *The Admissibility of Digital Evidence in Criminal Trials*.

Similarly, the Chief Judge of Cook County, who oversees the second largest unified court system in the United States, appointed Jones to a handpicked committee of Chicago executives to interview and select the next superintendent of the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center of Cook County, the largest juvenile detention facility in the United States. After his success on the selection board, Jones was tasked with assisting the juvenile detention facility through a very rigorous federal accreditation process.

As a result of his substantial achievements and commitment to the public good, military service as a U.S. Marine, and military police captain, Jones continues to garner national acclaim, particularly for his work relative to human trafficking and police accountability. As NPR's WBEZ Chicago acknowledged in *Police Accountability Expert Weighs in on Daunte Wright, Adam Toledo Shootings*, Jones is a highly sought-after expert commentator on high profile cases.

Jones also serves as a commissioner on the Evanston Civilian Police Review Commission. Because of his dedication, Jones was elected to co-chair the commission. He also serves part-time as an administrative law judge for the Cook County Officers Electoral Board.

Selected honors also include being:

- Awarded the *Illinois Judicial Council Chairpersons Award* for serving as Special Advisor to the Chair;
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- Awarded the Cook County Bar Association *Presidents Award* for outstanding contributions to the Cook County Bar Association;
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- Awarded the *John Marshall Law School Faculty Scholarship Award* for significant contributions to legal scholarship;
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- Named to the National Black Lawyers *Top 100 Lawyers*;
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- Appointed to the American Bar Association Human Trafficking Task Force, chaired by U.S. District Court Judge Virginia Kendall;
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- Appointed to lead UIC Law's *Task Force to Consider Renaming the Law School*, which was tasked with leading UIC Law through an intense investigative and renaming process. Today, UIC Law's renaming effort is viewed as a model for success and recognized as one of the most accomplished leadership tasks in its history.
- Awarded UIC's prestigious *Black History Maker* award for his redesign and leadership of UIC Law's SCALES program, which has become recognized as one of the most successful performance-based conditional admissions law school programs in the nation.
- Voted *Faculty Advisor of the Year* (2022).

Selected Publications

In *Darfur, the Authority of Law, and Unilateral Humanitarian Intervention*, Jones crafted a theory of humanitarian intervention that authorized countries to balance the United Nations restrictions on intervention against human rights imperatives in a manner that recognized the general utility of law and dangers of moral arbitrariness. So convincing in nature was his theory, its influence extended beyond the legal profession. In a published analysis of Jones's theory, one scholar noted that the portrayal of military intervention depicted in the hit TV show, *The West Wing*, most clearly flows on some level from the unilateralist arguments that Jones advocates.

In *Judges, Friends and Facebook: The Ethics of Prohibition*, Jones took the first step in enunciating the ethical risks judges encounter with online relationships. Jones opined that because of the potential for Facebook friendships to evolve into intimate relationships, and the reality of social impulses that are inimical to the exercise of proper judicial duties, judges are required to embrace ethics that restrict their capacity to engage in online relationships that weaken the public's

confidence in the judiciary. Jones's "restrictionist" exhortation had a chilling effect on judicial conduct in Illinois according to at least one Illinois Supreme Court Justice. Nonetheless, his theory emerged as one of the most influential expressions about the nature of judicial conduct and legal ethics, earning Jones speaking engagements, the cover of the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, and appointment by the Illinois Supreme Court as an ethics instructor for its judicial education conference. Jones has also appeared on ABC News and CBS news, respectively, when ethical questions arose regarding Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx's handling of an investigation involving *Empire* star, Jussie Smollett, and former FBI Director, James Comey's handling of his personal notes.

An ardent defender of Kantian conceptions of human dignity and the idea that respect for human dignity should remain unencumbered by another's impulses, social rank or individual talent, Jones's work cautions against the distribution of rights between groups based on notions of fairness rather than human dignity, on grounds that fairness is unduly susceptible to bias and political exploitation.

Concerned about the spate of police killings of unarmed minorities, and the source of growing discord between law enforcement and minority communities, Jones authored, *FBI Warning of White Supremacists Infiltration of Law Enforcement Nearly Forgotten*. After exposing the threat posed to law enforcement and racial minorities alike, Jones concluded that, the white supremacist threat should inform all Americans that today's civil discord is not borne out of a robust animosity towards law enforcement, most of whom are professional. Rather, it's more representative of a centuries-old ideological clash, which has ignited in citizens of good will a desire to affirm notions of racial equality so that the moral ethos of American culture is a reality for all. He warned that the white supremacist network may be just as destructive and far-reaching as that of foreign terrorist groups.

His piece became a social media phenomenon, garnering millions of reads, and sparked a national discussion about the relationship between right wing extremism and law enforcement. The work was the feature topic on multiple news platforms, leading to Jones's appearance on TV and radio shows, including Huffington Post Live and Chicago's Cliff Kelley Show, and would be cited in numerous papers and magazines, including *Esquire*, *The PBS News Hour*, *The Oregonian*, *The Times-Picayune*, and *Huffington Post*. Consistent with Jones's warning, years after his publication, in November 2018, *New York Times Magazine* reported, White Supremacists and other far-right extremists have killed far more people since Sept. 11, 2001, than any other category of domestic extremist. Similarly, the Department of Homeland Security would later warn the U.S. Congress that the threat from White Supremacists is "a primary threat. Jones would later appear on Chicago news radio, WBBM, to address the infamous Laquan McDonald shooting and his recommendations for increased emphasis on law enforcement officer and public safety.

In "*Ending Bacha Bazi: Boy Sex Slavery and the Responsibility to Protect Doctrine*," the first law review publication dedicated to exposing the culture of pedophilia in Afghanistan, Jones opined that boy sex slavery is a constitutive and central feature of Afghanistan, and that Afghan provincial governors, military, and police officials, are openly engaged in the sexual exploitation of Afghan's boy population. Jones concluded that, the Afghan government's failure to safeguard its populace from sexual violence has significantly undermined U.S. counterinsurgency objectives, raising

serious questions about prospects for peace and security in the region. Within months after the publication of Jones's analysis, the U.S. Department of Defense Inspector General launched a full investigation into the Afghan government's complicity in the systematic sexual exploitation of Afghan boys. Thereafter, in February 2016, the United Nations General Assembly would issue Report, A/HRC/31/NGO/X, citing Jones's work and characterizing *Bacha Bazi* as a deeply disturbing practice and gross violation of human rights.

In his landmark piece, *Invisible Man: The Neglect of Men and Boys in the Publicity Regarding Human Trafficking*, Jones explored the intersection between American criminal jurisprudence and commercial media discourse as it relates to publicity regarding human trafficking. Jones argued that while female vulnerability to trafficking is often highlighted in contemporary media discourse, male vulnerability is consistently obscured by modern-day media expressions of male dominance and invulnerability. Jones boldly reasoned that socially constructed conceptions of masculinity rendered scores of male victims of sexual violence, pornography and forced labor virtually invisible. Jones boldly reasoned that male victims likely outnumber female victims in some regions. Nearly a decade after Jones wrote *Invisible Man*, the U.S. State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, in 2017, would publish, *Assisting Male Survivors of Human Trafficking*, and assert that "men and boys represent nearly half of the total number of human trafficking victims," but are more likely "to be neglected by government and service providers," seemingly aligning itself with the central position Jones advanced in *Invisible Man*.

Having majored in Philosophy at Chaminade University, and completed Columbia Law School's renowned Legal Theory Workshop, Jones is a recognized writer of legal philosophy. In *The Ethics of Letting Civilians Die in Afghanistan: The False Dichotomy between Hobbesian and Kantian Rescue Paradigms*, Jones reasoned that judgments regarding Hobbesian and Kantian theory point to a prodigious appetite for locating divergence in Hobbesian and Kantian schemas for deciding when rescue is right. Jones argues that although this divergence rejects the possibility that the empirical effect of Kant's deontological moral obligations can be coterminous with Hobbes' duty of self-preservation, one's adherence to one theory or the other doesn't necessarily produce completely distinct outcomes. When discussing existing antinomies between Hobbesian and Kantian procedures for deciding the rightness of rescue, Jones reasons that Hobbes and Kant methods for deciding the right action can produce equivalent outcomes in situations where self-preservation represents the stronger ground of obligation between competing moral rules.

In *Law Schools, Cultural Competency and Anti-Black Discrimination*, which was published at Berkeley Law, Jones calls particular attention to the underrepresentation of African American law students and faculty, and comparatively dismal graduation, and bar passage rates among African Americans at many law schools. Jones's influential work advocates for greater access to legal education for racial minority students and required cultural competency training for all law students. Months following its publication, the ABA adopted Standard 303(c), requiring law schools to provide cross cultural competency and bias training to law students.

Some other notable scholarly publications include:

- *The Moral Plausibility of Contract: Using the Covenant of Good Faith to Prevent Resident Physician Fatigue-Related Medical Errors*;
- *Police, Heroes, and Child Trafficking: Who Cries When Her Attacker Wears Blue?*;

- *Has Conduct in Iraq Confirmed the Moral Inadequacy of International Humanitarian Law? Examining the Confluence between Contract Theory and the Scope of Civilian Immunity During Armed Conflict;*
- *Human Trafficking Victim Identification: Should Consent Matter?;* and
- *Chris Rock Hits The Right Tone with Chicago Youth Detention Center* (op-ed)

Military Service

In a highly distinguished U.S. military career, Jones ascended to the field grade rank of Major from the enlisted rank of Private within 20 years and retired. He is a former U.S. Army judge advocate, U.S. Army military police captain, and U.S. Marine infantryman.

Some other military honors include, being:

- Awarded *The Army Achievement Medal* by the Secretary of the Army for “exceptional meritorious achievement as an instructor;
- Awarded *The Army Achievement Medal* by the Secretary of the Army for being named, Distinguished Honor Graduate of a rigorous training certification course;
- Awarded the *U.S. Navy Meritorious Unit Citation* for his actions as a Marine scout in the Navy SEAL directed counterterrorism program known as, Red Cell;
- Awarded the *National Defense Service Medal* for conduct during The Gulf War;
- Appointed to U.S. Army Special Operations position (CA); and
- Selected for advanced training at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School.
- Awarded a personalized expression of gratitude from former Secretary of State, Gen. (Ret) Colin Powell.

Jones has earned diplomas from numerous military schools, including the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School, the U.S. Army Military Police Officer School, U.S. Marines Officer Candidates School Platoon Leaders Course (Quantico), the U.S. Army Officer Candidates School, and the U.S. Marines Noncommissioned Officers Leadership Course.