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**Law and Society Association Awards Several ABF Scholars in 2018**

CHICAGO, May 17, 2018 — The [Law and Society Association](http://www.lawandsociety.org) (LSA) — a scholarly organization committed to recognizing, supporting, and disseminating scholarly research and publishing in the field of sociolegal studies — has [awarded](#) several LSA prizes in 2018 to [American Bar Foundation](http://www.abfn.org) (ABF) scholars, including the **Stanton Wheeler Mentorship Award** to ABF Research Professor **Laura Beth Nielsen**, the **John Hope Franklin Prize** to 2017-18 ABF William H. Neukom Fellows Chair in Diversity and Law **Angela Onwuachi-Willig**, the **Graduate Student Paper Prize** to former ABF/NSF/LSA Doctoral Fellow **Ayobami Lanionu**, the **Dissertation Prize** to former ABF/NSF/LSA Doctoral Fellow **Amanda Hughett**, the **Herbert Jacob Book Prize** to former ABF Doctoral Fellow **Alisha Holland**, and the **Harry J. Kalven Jr. Prize** to former ABF Board Member **Lauren B. Edelman**.

The Stanton Wheeler Mentorship Award is given to an outstanding mentor of graduate, professional, or undergraduate students working on issues of law and society. A [Research Professor](#) at the ABF and a Professor of Sociology and Director of Legal Studies at Northwestern University, Nielsen was awarded for her exemplary record of mentorship at Northwestern University, the ABF, and within the broader law and society community. As Director of the Center for Legal Studies at Northwestern, Nielsen involves undergraduate and graduate students in research projects and provides mentorship that has led her students to prestigious Ph.D. programs and teaching positions. Additionally, Nielsen's leadership, strategic management, and individualized mentoring for the ABF's doctoral fellowship program helped the program successfully nurture 18 doctoral fellows, as well as an additional 15, who were supported by a separate ABF doctoral fellowship that Nielsen administered.

Onwuachi-Willig, who is chancellor's professor of law at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, received the John Hope Franklin Prize, which is awarded to the best article on race, racism, and the law published within the last two years, for her article, "Policing the Boundaries of Whiteness: The Tragedy of Being 'Out of Place' from Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin." In "Policing the Boundaries of Whiteness," Onwuachi-Willig identifies important consistencies in the use of violence as racial boundary work and incorporates historical, sociological, political, and legal scholarship, as well as addresses class and gender issues. Onwuachi-Willig is currently the [2017-18 ABF William H. Neukom Fellows Chair in Diversity and Law](#).

Lanionu, who is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles, received the Graduate Student Prize, which is awarded to the graduate paper that best represents

outstanding work in law and society research, for his paper, "Coffee Shops and Street Stops: Policing Practices in Gentrifying Neighborhoods." In "Coffee Shops and Street Stops," Laniyonu explores the effect of gentrification and neighborhood change on policing patterns and emphasizes the importance of spatial dimensions in the analysis of urban policing. He was an [ABF Doctoral Fellow from 2016-2018](#).

Hughett, who is a postdoctoral fellow at SUNY-Buffalo's Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, received the Dissertation Prize, which is awarded to the dissertation that best represents outstanding work in law and society research in 2017, for her dissertation, "Silencing the Cell Block: The Making of Modern Prison Policy in North Carolina and the Nation." Bringing history to life, "Silencing the Cell Block" makes an important contribution to the field of rights work by documenting change over time in the field of prisoner rights using archival research. Hughett's dissertation demonstrates how the impact of such well-intentioned legal advocacy limits activists, who are seeking more substantive change within prisons. Hughett was an [ABF Doctoral Fellow from 2015-2017](#).

An Assistant Professor in the Politics Department at Princeton University, Holland received the Herbert Jacob Book Prize, which is awarded to the best book in law and society scholarship published in 2017, for her book, "Forbearance as Redistribution. The Politics of Informal Welfare in Latin America" (published by Cambridge University Press in 2017). Drawing on original research and illuminating how millions of people obtain housing and economic opportunity through micro-level decisions of local politicians, Holland innovatively illustrates a tradition of law and society scholarship that situates law in the micro decision-making of everyday politics. Holland was an [ABF Doctoral Fellow from 2013-2014](#).

The Agnes Roddy Robb Professor of Law and Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, Edelman received the Harry J. Kalven Jr. Prize for empirical scholarship that has contributed to the advancement of research in law and society. Over the past twenty years, her published articles have received awards and appeared regularly in the American Journal of Sociology and Law and Society Review, and her book, "Working Law: Courts, Corporations, and Symbolic Civil Rights," (published in 2016) has advanced the field of law and society and significantly shaped the subfields of law and professions, dispute resolution, and race and gender discrimination. Professor [Edelman](#) was a member of the Board of Directors of the ABF from 2003-2013.

### ***About the American Bar Foundation***

*The [American Bar Foundation](#) (ABF) is among the world's leading research institutes for the empirical study of law. The ABF seeks to expand knowledge and advance justice through innovative, interdisciplinary, and rigorous empirical research on law, legal processes, and legal institutions. To further this mission, the ABF will produce timely, cutting-edge research of the highest quality to inform and guide the legal profession, the academy, and society in the United States and internationally. The ABF's primary funding is provided by the [American Bar Endowment](#) and the [Fellows of The American Bar Foundation](#).*