

Gender, Race & Participatory Democracy in Bolivarian Venezuela



Fernando Vegas
Venezuelan Supreme Court
J. Soffiyah Elijah
Harvard Criminal Law Institute
and
Barbara Dougan
National Lawyers Guild

Fernando Ram3n Vegas Torrealba, Venezuelan Supreme Court Justice, is a judicial expert. On the aftermath of the Venezuelan 1999 Constitutional reform, Justice Vegas Torrealba was appointed to the Supreme Tribunal of Justice (TSJ) in August 2004, and assumed office on January 2005, where he sits in the Electoral Chamber of the Supreme Court.

J. Soffiyah Elijah serves as Deputy Director of the Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) at Harvard Law School (HLS). Under Ms. Elijah's leadership, HLS won the 2004 National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition, the same Competition at which HLS placed second in 2003. Ms. Elijah's leadership proved victorious again in March 2005; her legal expertise helped secure the release of a CJI client who had been incarcerated for 31 years.

Barbara Dougan will be representing the National Lawyers Guild. She is currently working on drug policy and will talk about the "war on drugs" and its disastrous impact on communities of color. Most of her experience is in civil law, including 16 years as a civil rights lawyer in Boston, specializing in race discrimination cases, and 11 years in Legal Services programs, working on poverty law issues but obviously race and gender are huge parts of the problem.



THURSDAY
APRIL 16, 09
7:00 - 9:00 PM
encuentro 5

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