



Topics set for Zarrow Symposium

By Ralph Schaefer TB&LN Correspondent

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Breakout sessions focused on biased policing, racism and mental health and a wide variety of other topics are set during the 2017 Zarrow Symposium.

The annual event is set for Oct. 5-6 at the Cox Business Center and will include 72 breakout sessions to provide participants a wide choice of topics, said Karen H. LaPlante, Mental Health Association Oklahoma director of education and community relations.

Speakers include Cornel West, a Harvard University practice of public philosophy professor and Princeton University professor emeritus; Derald Wing Sue, Columbia University professor of psychology and education in the department of clinical psychology at Teachers College and School of Social Work; Joy DeGruy, national renowned researcher, educator, author and presenter, and Sebastian Margaret, co-founder of the Disability Justice Collective, a disability justice community educator and disabled trans queer immigrant.

Other speakers include Al Carlozzi, Oklahoma State University professor and director of the OSU-Tulsa Counseling Center. He served as the Mental Health Association Oklahoma board of director's president in 2015 and co-chair of the Association's Education committee from 2012 to 2016; Alex Conclaves, DaySpring Community Services/Preferred Family Health; Alicia Williams, Provisional OU-TU School of Community Medicine, and Alisha Shalon with Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma.

The 2017 theme focused on Challenging Justice and Discrimination is "incredibly timely" even though it had been discussed by the topic selection committee for the past four or five years, LaPlante said. It is so important because of the many things going on in this community and country that tie back to these issues.

West, the closing keynote speaker on Oct. 6, has a background as a scholar, she said, has looked at these issues for years and is about building community. Everything that will be discussed during the two-day seminar comes down to how to move forward in addressing the various issues.

DeGruy will open the 2017 seminar as a keynote speaker and focus on historical trauma. She is the author of “Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome” that focuses on those who have struggled in search of the past and continue to struggle in the present.

Margaret works with the disabled, LaPlante said. These are people who are discriminated against for things that perhaps initially aren’t seen. Margaret, who is transgender, also will speak of the discrimination that he has experienced.

Other topics will bring new information that can help improve the quality of care in Tulsa and Oklahoma, she said.

Drew Diamond, former Tulsa Chief of Police and Jewish Federation of Tulsa executive director, will take a look at Racially Biased Policing; A Principled Response.

The discussion will include overcoming prejudice, arbitrary decisions, treatment disparity and disrespect and moving to universal respect and equitable use of police powers that can only be achieved by a process of bringing all of policing into full accord with democratic principles.

Legal Aid of Services of Oklahoma attorneys Igor Petrovich, Alisha Shalon and Carol Beatty will take a look at “Freed, But Not Free, Civil Legal Advocacy after Incarceration” and will focus on providing information and practical tips useful to case managers working with those with mental health conditions and are experiencing poverty and/or have had criminal justice involvement.

GableGotwals attorneys Chris Thrutchley and Lauren Oldham will help explain an employee’s rights in the workplace and help employers understand how to combat mental health discrimination against actual or perceived disabilities.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission released a report at the end of 2016 noting the rise of discrimination based on mental health. The agency handled more than \$5,000 claims and received about \$20 million in mental health discrimination case settlements.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/tulsabusiness/topics-set-for-zarrow-symposium/article_86cfb38c-43e3-5f5b-9048-795bc9d2e7a8.html