

# Kenyon College

John W. Adams Summer Scholars Program in Socio-Legal Studies  
Law and Society  
Student Conference & Summer Seminar  
June 8 – 13, 2015  
Race, Crime and Social Justice

The Adams Summer Legal Scholars Program announces the inaugural Law and Society Summer Seminar, a week long, intensive mini-conference in undergraduate legal studies. Modeled after the legal studies seminars sponsored by the Foundation for Law, Justice and Society at Oxford University's Centre for Socio-legal Studies in Oxford, England UK, the Adams Program looks to replicate the spirit and format of the Oxford program in which Kenyon's Summer Legal Scholars once participated. The Seminar is designed to bring together a select group of students from across the Five Colleges of Ohio to examine a current topic or theme in law through a number of presentations offered and discussions led by faculty in multiple disciplines at the consortium's colleges as well as from participating Ohio law schools.

The chosen topic for the inaugural seminar is Race, Crime and Social Justice. In light of the recent events over the past 18 months involving the shooting of African Americans by police officers and the recently released U.S. Department of Justice Report following its investigation of the Ferguson, Missouri police department for suspected civil rights violations, the nation's attention remains focused upon the specter of "injustice under the law" when it comes to persons of color in America's towns and cities. From topics like racial profiling and cross-racial eyewitness identification to wrongful convictions and excessive use of force, these issues have been staples of systematic examinations of the U.S. criminal justice system.

Students wishing to participate should submit letters of interest to the Office of the Provost/Dean on their respective campuses. No more than three (3) students from each campus will be invited to attend the conference and seminar on the campus of Kenyon College during the week of June 8 – June 13, 2015. Overnight accommodations will be provided in College housing, with registration fees covered and meals provided. Faculty from the College of Wooster, Denison University, Oberlin College, and Ohio Wesleyan University, in addition to the host institution, Kenyon College, will be invited to be presenters and discussion leaders

In addition to enhancing our students' understanding and appreciation for the complexity of these socio-legal issues, the Adams Summer Legal Scholars program looks to inspire and promote increased undergraduate research about the operation and meaning of law in society. As numerous scholars over the years have intimated, "Law is much too important to be left to lawyers alone." There may be no more worthy a subject for study in the undergraduate curriculum than law as college students endeavor to understand the multiplicity of factors that impact their opportunities in life as well as their responsibilities to ensure a just society.

For more information see <http://www.kenyon.edu/directories/offices-services/office-of-the-provost/funding-opportunities/student-research-opportunities/john-w-adams-summer-scholars-program-in-socio-legal-studies/>. **Deadline for submitting letters of interest is April 15.**