

Panel 3

The Waking Giant

2:45pm - 4:00pm

In the midst of recession, our society is once again beginning to pay attention to capitalism, the state, and on the notions of justice these human constructs necessitate. As a result, ordinary citizens are objecting to the dominant world of privilege and exclusion by refusing to accept this narrative as the only one possible.

Panelists will discuss how we—as organizers, participants, and practitioners -- can challenge the authority of the economic and legal status quo to effect change. The panel will be tasked with the question: Will it take the reform or the rejection of our institutions to shape a world truly informed by a collective vision?

Speakers: **Steven Laffredo, James Gray Pope, Linda Stout**

Speakers

STEVEN LOFFREDO J.D.

Professor Loffredo teaches at CUNY School of Law in New York City. He earned his undergraduate degree from Yale, his J.D. from Harvard Law School, and clerked for the New Jersey Supreme Court before entering practice at the Legal Aid Society in the South Bronx, where he provided neighborhood legal services and conducted test case litigation. He has litigated many path-breaking law reform cases, including actions that secured the right of homeless families in New York to safe and adequate shelter, established the right of single homeless shelter residents to public assistance and Medicaid, and vindicated the statutory entitlement of disabled New Yorkers to federal benefits worth over \$100 million annually. He has continued to represent poor people through the Law School's clinical program and as pro bono counsel to the Urban Justice Center. He has written and spoken widely on the constitutional dimensions of economic rights and the role of wealth in a constitutional democracy.

He is co-author of *The Rights of the Poor* with his wife, Helen Hershkoff, and served as consultant to the late U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone on the constitutional aspects of federal welfare legislation. He teaches in the areas of constitutional law, administrative law, health law, and social welfare law, and has co-directed the Immigrant and Refugee Rights Clinic and the Workfare Advocacy Project Seminar/Economic Justice Clinic, which received the Pro Bono Service Award of the New York State Bar Association in 2002 and the Clinical Legal Education Association's Award for Excellence in 2004.

JAMES GRAY POPE J.D., Ph.D.

Professor Pope received an A.B. and J.D. from Harvard, and a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton. He currently teaches at Rutgers University. From 1974 to 1980, he worked in the metal trades and was an active member of the International Association of Machinists and the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers. After law school, he clerked for Chief Justice Rose Elizabeth Bird of the California Supreme Court. Prior to joining the Rutgers faculty in 1986, he was associated with the Boston law firm of Segal, Roitman & Coleman, where he represented labor unions and employees.

Professor Pope is a member of the National Lawyers Guild and serves on the Executive Council of the Rutgers AAUP/AFT (AFL-CIO). His articles about workers' rights, constitutional law, and labor history have appeared in a wide variety of publications including the *Columbia Law Review*, *Law & History Review*, the *Michigan Law Review*, the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, the *Texas Law Review*, the *Yale Law Journal*, *Labor History*, *New Labor Forum* (with Peter Kellman & Ed Bruno), and *Working USA* (also with Kellman & Bruno).

LINDA STOUT

Linda grew up poor in North Carolina, a thirteenth generation Quaker. Linda's first job at the age of ten was working in tobacco and after high school, becoming a textile mill worker, and later a secretary where she began to get more involved in work for change. Linda went on to become a community organizer with a keen awareness about the need to speak the language of people who didn't know ...the language of social change and organizing. Her awareness of her own roots and of the people she wanted to reach let her create along with many others from the community Piedmont Peace Project. Linda was appointed the Public Policy and then Bunting Fellow at Radcliff/Harvard. There she wrote her first book, *Bridging the Class Divide: and Other Lessons for Grassroots Organizers*, with foreword by Howard Zinn (Beacon Press 1997).

Now, with Spirit in Action, the organization she founded in 2000, Linda follows her passion to make movements for change welcoming to people of all backgrounds working from a place of heart and values. She helps bring people together to build trust so that all voices are heard as part of creating a collective vision for the future. Her newest book, *Collective Visioning*, was published in 2011 by BK press.