The Center on Race, Law and Justice presents

Long Island Migrant Labor Camps: Dust for Blood
Book Talk Event

July 12, 2021
4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. EDT
Zoom Webinar

CLE Course Materials
Table of Contents

1. Speaker Biographies

2. CLE Materials

Long Island Migrant Labor Camps: Dust for Blood, Book Talk Event

Panel Discussion

Torres, Mark A.. PowerPoint Presentation (2021)

Dust for Blood Speaker Bios

Mark Torres ‘08
Mark A. Torres is the General Counsel for Teamsters Local 810. He tirelessly represents thousands of unionized workers and their families throughout the greater New York area. Mark has a law degree from Fordham University School of Law and a bachelor’s degree in history from New York University. Mark achieved his academic milestones while working full time as a Refrigeration Engineer at New York University and attending class in the evenings, all while raising a family. Mark’s commitment to the Labor movement spans greater than 30 years. Mark is also a prolific author. His new book titled “Long Island Migrant Labor Camps: Dust for Blood” is the riveting, comprehensive and never before told true story about the migrant labor camps in Suffolk County from their inception during World War II, through their heyday in 1960, and culminating with their steady decline towards the end of the 20th century. This book, which will be released on March 22, 2021, chronicles the many aspects of this dark history including the human suffering of the camps’ inhabitants; the cause and effect of these camps; and the factors which led to their eventual decline. This book will also feature the heroic efforts of special individuals who, in their own unique way, were outspoken critics of the deplorable conditions of these camps and fought to improve the lot of migrant workers on the eastern end of Long Island during this time period. Mark has also written two fictional crime novels entitled “A Stirring in the North Fork” (2015) and “Adeline” (2019), both available on Amazon, and a labor union related children’s book entitled “Good Guy Jake” (Hard Ball Press, 2017). For more information on his work please visit Mark’s author website at: Home (marktorresauthor.com)

Tanya Katerí Hernández
Tanya Katerí Hernández is the Archibald R. Murray Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law, where she teaches Anti-Discrimination Law, Comparative Employment Discrimination, Critical Race Theory, The Science of Implicit Bias and the Law: New Pathways to Social Justice, and Trusts & Wills. She received her A.B. from Brown University, and her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she served as Note Topics Editor of the Yale Law Journal.

Professor Hernández is an internationally recognized comparative race law expert and Fulbright Scholar who has visited at the Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, in Paris and the University of the West Indies Law School, in Trinidad. She has previously served as a Law and Public Policy Affairs Fellow at Princeton University, a Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University; a Faculty Fellow at the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, and as a Scholar in Residence at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Professor Hernández is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, the American Law Institute, and the Academia Puertorriqueña de Jurisprudencia y Legislación. Hispanic Business Magazine selected her as one of its annual 100 Most Influential Hispanics. Professor Hernández serves on the editorial boards of the Revista Brasileira de Direito e Justiça/Brazilian Journal of Law and Justice, and the Latino Studies Journal published by Palgrave-Macmillian Press.

Professor Hernández’s scholarly interest is in the study of comparative race relations and anti-discrimination law, and her work in that area has been published in numerous university law reviews like Cornell, Harvard, N.Y.U., U.C. Berkeley, Yale and in news outlets like the New York Times, among other publications including her books Racial Subordination in Latin America: The Role of the State, Customary Law and the New Civil Rights Response (including Spanish and Portuguese translation editions), Brill Research Perspectives in Comparative Law: Racial Discrimination, and Multiracials and

Jennifer Gordon
Jennifer Gordon founded the Workplace Project in 1992, a non-profit worker center in Hempstead, New York, which organizes immigrant workers, mostly from Central and South America. The Workplace Project lobbied for and won a strong wage enforcement law in New York state. Gordon was the executive director of the Workplace Project from 1993 to 1998. Gordon was a MacArthur Fellow from 1999 to 2004. She is the author of Suburban Sweatshops: The Fight for Immigrant Rights, as well as several articles on immigrants, politics, and labor unions. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Radcliffe College of Harvard University in 1987 and a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School in 1992. She is currently an associate professor at Fordham University School of Law, where she teaches courses on immigration and labor law.
For Immediate Release

Long Island Migrant Labor Camps: Dust for Blood by Mark A. Torres

Pub Date: March 22, 2021

During World War II, a group of potato farmers opened the first migrant labor camp in Suffolk County to house farmworkers from Jamaica. Over the next twenty years, more than one hundred camps of various sizes would be built throughout the region. Thousands of migrant workers lured by promises of good wages and decent housing flocked to Eastern Long Island, where they were often cheated out of pay and housed in deadly slum-like conditions. Preyed on by corrupt camp operators and entrapped in a feudal system that left them mired in debt, laborers struggled and, in some cases, perished in the shadow of New York’s affluence. Author Mark A. Torres reveals the dreadful history of Long Island’s migrant labor camps from their inception to their peak in 1960 and their steady decline in the following decades.

About the Publisher

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About the Author

Mark A. Torres is the author of two fictional crime novels, titled A Stirring in the North Fork (2015) and Adeline (2019), both available on Amazon, and a labor union–related children’s book titled Good Guy Jake (Hard Ball Press, 2017). Mark is also a labor and employment attorney who tirelessly represents thousands of unionized workers and their families throughout the Greater New York area. Mark has a law degree from Fordham University School of Law and a bachelor’s degree in history from New York University. Mark achieved his academic milestones while working full time as a refrigeration engineer at New York University and attending class in the evenings, all while raising a family. Mark’s commitment to the labor movement spans nearly thirty years.