

# CHELSEA N. JONES, PhD, MPP

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## EDUCATION

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<b>University of California, Los Angeles</b> Doctor of Philosophy – Political Science Specialization: Race, Ethnicity and Politics	2023
<b>H. John Heinz III College of Information Systems and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University</b> Master of Science in Public Policy & Management – Washington, D.C. Cohort	2018
<b>The University of Texas at Austin</b> Bachelor of Social Work, Minor in African & African Diaspora Studies	2015

## PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Researcher | Democracy: Voting Rights & Redistricting

Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law

Aug. 2023 – Present

- Devise and conduct statistical analyses on election results and the effects of electoral policy reforms
- Collect, clean and analyze large-scale quantitative and qualitative data from a variety of sources
- Write [articles](#) and [reports](#) on original research for public, academic and political audiences
- Interface with scholars, political and community leaders to increase rigor and relevance of research
- Conduct external engagements (presentations, lectures and field visits) to disseminate findings
- Manage undergraduate interns, and graduate fellows

### Adjunct Professor

Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service – New York University

Jun. 2024 – Present

- Instruct weekly [Race & Voting](#) course to a cohort of first and second-year master's students
- Increased understanding of the intersection between American racialization and the electoral system
- Developed syllabus fusing academic and historical texts, news media and multimedia
- Incorporated present day political occurrences with traditional political development curriculum

### Senior Policy Fellow

UCLA Voting Rights Project

Jun. 2020 – June 2023

- Produced statistical analyses and wrote [briefs](#) to support legal suits against restrictive electoral policies
- Utilized voter files, the census, and various data sources to identify gaps in access to voting
- Conducted geographical analyses to assess impacts of and risks associated with voting reform policies
- Utilized the novel El Compare statistical package to conduct racially polarized voting analyses
- Piloted Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (BISG) analysis in partnership with California Secretary of State

**Adjunct Policy Researcher | Advancing Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience**

RAND Corporation

Jun. 2022 – Jan 2023

- Collaborated with interdisciplinary team to incorporate racial equity metrics in the identification of systemically important entities (SIEs)
- Conducted a solo-authored case study on security risks of alternative financial services (payday loan stores, payment advance applications, etc.)
- Developed mobilization project alongside the Center to Advance Racial Equity Policy and Fair Count

**Doctoral Research Assistantships**

Russell Sage and Gates Foundation

Jan. 2020 – June 2022

- Coordinated 2021 and 2022 Proposal Development Summer Institute - virtual institute for nearly 30 professors of color to provide publishing guidance, professional development and mentorship
- Organized and facilitate Zoom operations, external communication with scholars and speakers, video editing and production, as well as creation of all published event materials

Bunche Center for African American Studies

Sept. 2020 – Jun. 2020

- Created and programed 2020 election survey for in-person voters in Los Angeles County in partnership with the Los Angeles Lakers Racial Equity division
- Administered and analyzed survey data, and wrote accompanying research reports and publications
- Oversaw survey administration team and multi-day data collection across multiple research sites

UCLA Political Science Department

Jul. 2019 – Sept. 2020

- Collected, cleaned, and geocoded polling location data for study on racial inequity in polling closures
- Utilized multiple Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software programs to map polling locations in 9 states and analyze demographic data of associated voters using the U.S. census
- Managed all external communications with multi-disciplinary partners to assist with project logistics

**Teaching Assistant**

University of California, Los Angeles

Sept. 2019 – June 2020

- Assisted associate professors in the instruction of three undergraduate courses: Politics of American Suburbanization, World Politics and Intro to American Politics
- Managed cohort of over 60 - 90 students per semester - leading weekly lectures and tutoring
- Led the transition of courses from in-person to virtual during the COVID-19 pandemic

**Policy Research Fellow | Dallas Independent School District & Dallas Afterschool**

Urban Leaders Fellowship

Jun. 2018 – Aug. 2018

- Conducted in-depth interviews and systemic data analyses on teen pregnancy in Dallas
- Researched options for funding stream to expand afterschool programs for low-income students
- Provided recommendations for targeted, evidence-based health curriculum and co-curricular interventions

**Research Fellow | U.S. Small Business Administration – Veteran’s Affairs**

Carnegie Mellon University

Aug. 2017 - May 2018

- Conducted program evaluation of national veteran’s entrepreneurship program
- Analyzed census and program data to uncover barriers to access, participation and retention
- Provided recommendations on program implementation, technology usage and marketing strategies

**Policy Fellow | Race, Equity and Leadership Team (REAL)**

National League of Cities

Aug. 2017 - Aug. 2018

- Provided technical assistance to Mayors and city councils devising racial equity plans for their cities
- Consulted politicians on crisis management, constituent mistrust and community disengagement
- Assisted curriculum development for racial equity trainings, facilitated trainings for government officials

**Policy Assistant | Office of Community Affairs**

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

May. 2017 – Aug. 2017

- Engaged non-profit sector to promote dialogue on consumer issues and inform the CFPB’s priorities
- Facilitated roundtables, townhalls and individual stakeholder meetings with consumer advocates
- Developed outreach toolkit including a digital resource guide for organizations, one-pager for mass distribution and presentation kit for external engagements

**Legislative Intern | Congressional Black Caucus Foundation**

Office of Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett

Jan. 2016 – May. 2016

- Advised legislators on issues relevant to Oversight & Government Reform and Agriculture committees
- Conducted research for fact sheets and congressional hearing documents, drafted constituent letters
- Drafted programmatic funding requests for the Fiscal Year 2017 federal appropriations process

**Equity Specialist Intern | Center for the Elimination of Disproportionality & Disparity (CEDD)**

Texas Health & Human Services Commission

Sep. 2015 – Dec. 2015

- Facilitated diversity trainings for government agencies and community organizations
- Conducted analysis of practices for reducing racial disparities to advise various TX government agencies
- Aided mobile home community in advocating for affordable housing in state legislature

**PUBLICATIONS & FEATURES**

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Academic

Rush T, **Jones C**, Herndon M, Barreto MA. Catalysts of Insurrection: How White Racial Antipathy Influenced Beliefs of Voter Fraud and Support for the January 6th Insurrection. *The Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*. Published online 2025:1-21. doi:10.1017/rep.2025.9

Jones, Chelsea, (2023) “*Taking Back the Ballot: Black Socio-cultural Institutions and the Contemporary Fight Against Voter Suppression*”. UCLA eScholarship, Dissertation

Jones, Chelsea, Robertson Crystal & Frasure, Lorrie, (2022) “London Breed” in *Historic Firsts in US Elections*

Jones, C. (2017). *Preying on Poverty; An Analysis of Predatory Lending Services in Dallas, Texas*. ESRI Press.

<http://arcg.is/2p2fBUZ>

Jones, C. (2015). *The Emergence of Community Based Literature as a Result of Police Misconduct on African American Communities*. University of Texas McNair Scholars Journal. <https://youtu.be/bvrhVKf4I8M>

Policy Media and Legal Writing

- Jones, C. (2024) "Defending HBCUs Safeguards Democracy", *Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law*, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/defending-hbcus-safeguards-democracy>
- Jones, C. Grange, C. (2024) "Study Finds Extensive Barriers Restrict Native Americans from Voting", *Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law*, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/study-finds-extensive-barriers-restrict-native-americans-voting>
- Jones, C. Grange, C. (2024) "Voting on Tribal Lands", *Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law*, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-tribal-lands>
- Jones, C. (2024) "This Juneteenth, Legal Threats to Black Participation in Democracy Are Festering", *Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law*, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/juneteenth-legal-threats-black-participation-democracy-are-festering>
- Jones, C. (2023) "How Equity Centered Design Can Put Voter Mobilization into Overdrive — A Case Study of Fair Count", *Journal of Engaged Research*, <https://medium.com/journal-of-engaged-research/how-equity-centered-design-can-put-voter-mobilization-into-overdrive-a-case-study-of-fair-count-5816780901f9>
- Jones, C., Slaughter, C., (2022) "Why Black women will be especially affected by the loss of Roe", *The Washington Post, Politics* <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/06/25/dobbs-roe-black-racism-disparate-maternal-health/>
- Jones, Chelsea, (2022) "Polling Place Closures Affect Marginalized Voters and Hurt Democracy", *The Washington Post, Politics*, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/06/17/vra-black-voting-rights-georgia-texas-suppression/>
- Pico Neighborhood Association v. City of Santa Monica. Brief Amicus Curiae of UCLA Voting Rights Project. 11 June 2021. *CA Supreme Court*. [https://www.santamonica.gov/Media/Default/Attorney/Election/2021.6.11\\_Amicus%20Br\\_UCLA%20Voting%20Rights%20Project.pdf](https://www.santamonica.gov/Media/Default/Attorney/Election/2021.6.11_Amicus%20Br_UCLA%20Voting%20Rights%20Project.pdf)
- Texas League of United Latin American Citizens v. Abbott. 05 October 2020. US District Court for the Western District of Texas Austin Division. <https://latino.ucla.edu/research/texas-league-of-united-latin-american-citizens-v-abbott/>
- Black Voters Matter Fund Et Al. V. Raffensperger. 30 June 2020. US District Court for the Northern District of Georgia Atlanta Division. <https://acluga.org/black-voters-matter-v-raffensperger/>
- Jones, C., Wasserman A. (2018). *How Austin, Texas is Addressing Racial Equity*. National League of Cities CitiesSpeak Blog.
- Onyenaka, B., Jones, C. (2017). *Why Natural Disasters Hit Vulnerable Groups Hardest*. National League of Cities CitiesSpeak Blog.
- Wasserman, A., Jones, C. (2017). *Racial Equity Municipal Action Guide for City Leaders*. National League of Cities.