

# Tracey Meares's Jackson Lecture at Chautauqua Institution

*John Q. Barrett\**

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On July 11, 2016, Tracey L. Meares, Walton Hale Hamilton Professor of Law at Yale University, delivered at Chautauqua Institution the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Robert H. Jackson Lecture on the Supreme Court of the United States.

Professor Meares's lecture, entitled "Policing and Its Reform in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," addressed recent and historical United States events (including, beginning at 29:20 on the time clock counter, the Supreme Court's June 20<sup>th</sup> decision in *Utah v. Strieff*), human experiences, academic research, psychology and communal education.

For Professor Meares's lecture on video (preceded by brief introductions, and followed by audience questions and Meares answers), [click here](#).

And for excerpts from an interview that Professor Meares gave at the Robert H. Jackson Center on the evening before her Jackson Lecture at Chautauqua, [click here](#).

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[Tracey Meares](#) is a leading scholar, teacher and writer, focusing on criminal procedure and criminal law policy and emphasizing empirical investigation of those subjects. She has worked extensively with the United States government, including from 2004-11 as a member of the Committee on Law & Justice, a National Research Council Standing Committee of the National Academy of Sciences, and on National Research Council committees that reviewed, respectively, research on police policy and

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\* Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law, New York City, and Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow, Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, New York ([www.roberthjackson.org](http://www.roberthjackson.org)). I emailed an earlier version of this essay to The Jackson List on July 25, 2016.

For an archive of selected Jackson List posts, many of which include document images, visit <http://thejacksonlist.com>. This essay is posted there as a PDF file with "live" hyperlinks.

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practices, and the National Institute of Justice. In November 2010, Attorney General Holder appointed Professor Meares to serve on the U.S. Department of Justice's newly-created Science Advisory Board. In December 2014, President Obama named Professor Meares a member of his Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

Professor Meares has been a Yale Law School professor since 2007. She previously was Max Pam Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Studies in Criminal Justice at the University of Chicago Law School. At both the University of Chicago and at Yale, Professor Meares was the first African American woman law professor to be granted tenure. Before going into academia, Tracey Meares was a law clerk for the Honorable Harlington Wood, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and then an Honors Program Trial Attorney in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Jackson Lecture at Chautauqua Institution is a leading annual consideration of the Supreme Court of the United States and related topics in the weeks following the completion of the Supreme Court's annual Term. Chautauqua's Jackson Lecturers have been:

- 2005: Geoffrey R. Stone, University of Chicago professor;
- 2006: Linda Greenhouse, *New York Times* writer and Yale Law School professor;
- 2007: Seth P. Waxman, WilmerHale partner and former Solicitor General of the United States;
- 2008: Jeffrey Toobin, staff writer at *The New Yorker* and CNN senior legal analyst;
- 2009: Paul D. Clement, Bancroft PLLC partner and former Solicitor General of the United States;
- 2010: Jeff Shesol, historian, communications strategist and former White House speechwriter;
- 2011: Dahlia Lithwick, senior editor at *Slate*;

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- 2012: Pamela Karlan, Stanford University professor;
- 2013: Charles Fried, Harvard University professor and former Solicitor General of the United States;
- 2014: Akhil Reed Amar, Yale University professor;
- 2015: Laurence H. Tribe, Harvard University professor;  
and
- 2016: Tracey L. Meares, Yale University professor.