



**SPRINGFIELD CLUB**

*44th Annual*

## **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast**

**ABOUT OUR SPEAKER**



**Speaker-Tracey L. Meares, J.D.  
Walton Hale Professor of Law, Yale Law School  
Yale University, New Haven, CT**

**Tracey L. Meares, J.D.**, is the Walton Hale Hamilton Professor of Law at Yale Law School and a founding director of the Justice Collaboratory at the Yale Law School, Yale University. Before joining the faculty at Yale University, Ms. Meares was a professor at the University of Chicago Law School for twelve years serving as

Max Pam Professor and Director of the Center for Studies in Criminal Justice. Notably, she was the first African-American woman to be granted tenure at both of these academic institutions.

Professor Meares is the daughter of Carolyn and Bobby Blackwell and granddaughter of Velma and C. Lee Carey. She was the valedictorian of her 1984 graduating class at Springfield High School, attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign earning a B.S. degree in general engineering, and graduated *cum laude* with a Juris Doctorate from the University of Chicago Law School.

She clerked for federal appeals court judge Harlington Wood, Jr. for a year and then worked as a trial attorney for the Antitrust Division of the U. S. Justice Department.

In December 2014, President Barack Obama named Professor Meares as one of the 11 members of his *Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing*. She also served on the Board of Directors for the Joyce Foundation, was a member of the National Research Council's Committee on Law and Justice, and was appointed by former Attorney General Eric Holder to serve on the Office of Justice Programs' Science Advisory Board.

After 20 years of legal scholarship and social science research, Professor Meares is acknowledged as a nationally-recognized expert on policing in urban communities, with her work focusing on understanding how members of the public view their relationships with police officers, prosecutors, and members of the judiciary.