The Color of Debt: How Collection Suits Squeeze Black Neighborhoods

Thurs., Nov. 5, 4:30-6:00 pm
Anheuser-Busch Hall, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom
Dinner from The Vine will be provided following the panel

Millions of Americans each year are hit by lawsuits over unpaid debt, with the most devastating consequence being the seizure of money from a debtor’s wages or bank account. When the nonprofit newsroom ProPublica recently investigated the prevalence of such practices in St. Louis and other cities, a clear pattern emerged: these suits and consequences are massed in St. Louis black neighborhoods.

Join the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) for a discussion of causes and remedies for the stark racial disparities in the debt collection system, as well as resources for families that have been devastated by it.

Read the story at https://www.propublica.org/article/debt-collection-lawsuits-squeeze-black-neighborhoods and join community leaders, elected officials, journalists, and legal experts in the discussion, including our panel:

- **Paul Kiel**, Reporter, *ProPublica*
- **Tishaura Jones**, Treasurer, City of St. Louis
- **Rev. Starsky Wilson**, Co-chair, Ferguson Commission; President, Deaconess Foundation
- **Todd Swanstrom**, Professor of Community Collaboration & Public Policy, Political Science Department, University of Missouri-St. Louis
- **Karen Tokarz**, Professor of Law and Professor of African & African-American Studies, and Director, Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic, Washington University

**Moderated by Chris King**, Editorial Director, *St. Louis American*

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