Killers of the Flower Moon


This book tells the remarkable story of the murders of many people in Oklahoma in the 1920s, most of them Osage Indians. It recounts a story that has been mostly forgotten in American history, that involves the way the federal government treated the Osage as it moved them to land in Oklahoma that turned out to be rich in oil deposits, and the atrocities that were perpetrated because of the riches the Osage were then entitled to. It is also the story of the development of the FBI as an investigative force, and it asks questions about state and federal law enforcement that are still relevant today. And for lawyers, this book also tells a story about property and what can happen when the law does not properly safeguard property rights. This book is currently being turned into a movie, directed by Martin Scorsese and starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro.

This book was selected by Associate Dean Kristen Barnes. Dean Barnes is an Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Professor of Law. Dean Barnes teaches courses on Property, Housing Law, and Voting Rights Law. She received her B.A. in Political Science from Vassar College, J.D. from Harvard Law School, and Ph.D. in Literature from Duke University. Dean Barnes’s scholarship focuses on anti-discrimination and equality law, property, housing, education, constitutional law, and pensions. She has published articles in top law review journals including Duke Journal of Constitutional Law and Public Policy, Harvard Journal of Racial and Ethnic Justice, and Chicago-Kent Law Review.

The American Bar Foundation awarded Dean Barnes a residency as a visiting scholar for the 2019-2020 and 2018-2019 academic years. She has presented her work at numerous prestigious conferences such as the American Society of International Law Midyear Meeting, Harvard Law School’s Institute of Global Law and Policy Conference, the Association of Law, Property, and Society Annual Conference, Loyola Law School’s Constitutional Colloquium, and Fordham Law School’s International and Comparative Urban Law Conference.
Dean Barnes has served in several AALS leadership roles including Chair of the Section on Property Law, Chair of the Real Estate Transactions Section, and Chair-Elect of the European Law Section. In the international arena, Dean Barnes has served as Co-Chair of the American Society of International Law Midyear Meeting (2019). She is also a member of the University of California - Berkeley’s Comparative Law Equality Working Group. Prior to entering academia, Dean Barnes practiced commercial real estate law in Chicago and clerked for a federal district court judge in the Northern District of Illinois.

A list of focus questions designed to help you get the most out of “Killers of the Flower Moon” is available as a separate document.