Sherrilyn Ifill, LDF President and Director-Counsel, and Richard Rothstein, EPI Research Associate, will discuss how a century of purposeful federal, state, and local policy to segregate the St. Louis metropolitan area by race was at the root of the events in Ferguson. They will also detail how these policies were not unique to Ferguson and St. Louis, but national in application. Emily Badger, reporter at The Washington Post, will moderate.

In a recent report, Rothstein showed that government actions such as racially explicit zoning, public housing segregation, and federal requirements for white-only suburbs systematically segregated African Americans—and set the stage for the protests and racial tension following Michael Brown’s death.

Ifill and Rothstein will note that truly moving forward as a nation will require addressing the century of public policy that created our segregated metropolises. Remedies for our racial problems will be unlikely unless we understand how our racial landscape was created.

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