



AI For The Culture

Howard Law AI Initiative

Nov 2025



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY

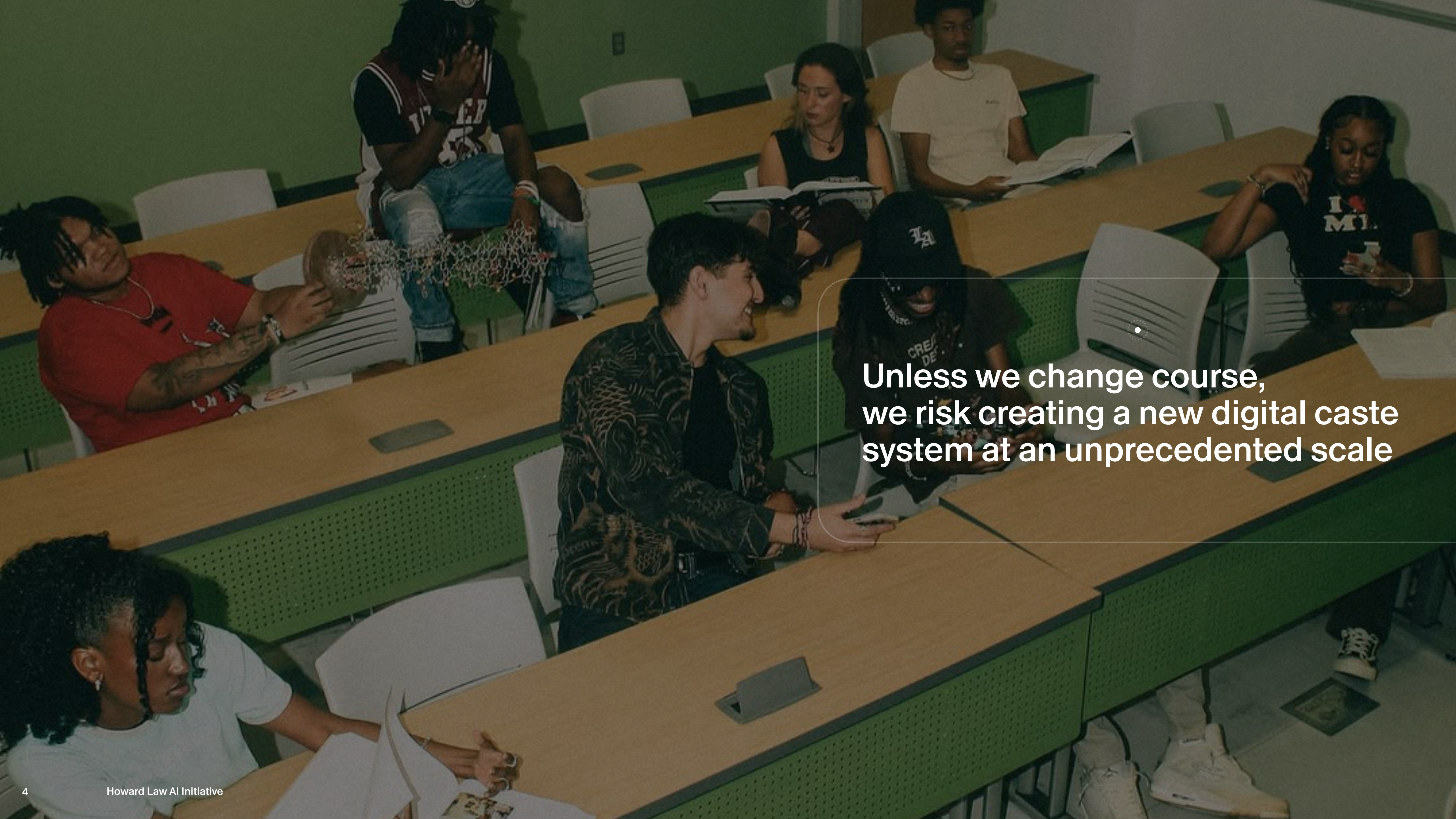


We stand at the threshold of a new civil and human rights era—one defined by algorithmic power, written in code, executed in milliseconds

A close-up photograph of a human hand, palm facing up, with a vibrant rainbow gradient overlay. The colors transition from red at the bottom to purple at the top. The hand is positioned against a dark, textured background.

•
Today's AI models encode the very biases that
have long excluded marginalized communities.

Bias in AI isn't just code—it's the blueprint
for systemic inequity.



Unless we change course,
we risk creating a new digital caste
system at an unprecedented scale



It's up to us to decide if AI will
entrench systemic inequities or
become a true lever for progress

—Legacy Meets Urgency

The window to shape AI is rapidly closing.

Howard Law's unparalleled civil rights legacy uniquely positions us to seize this moment.

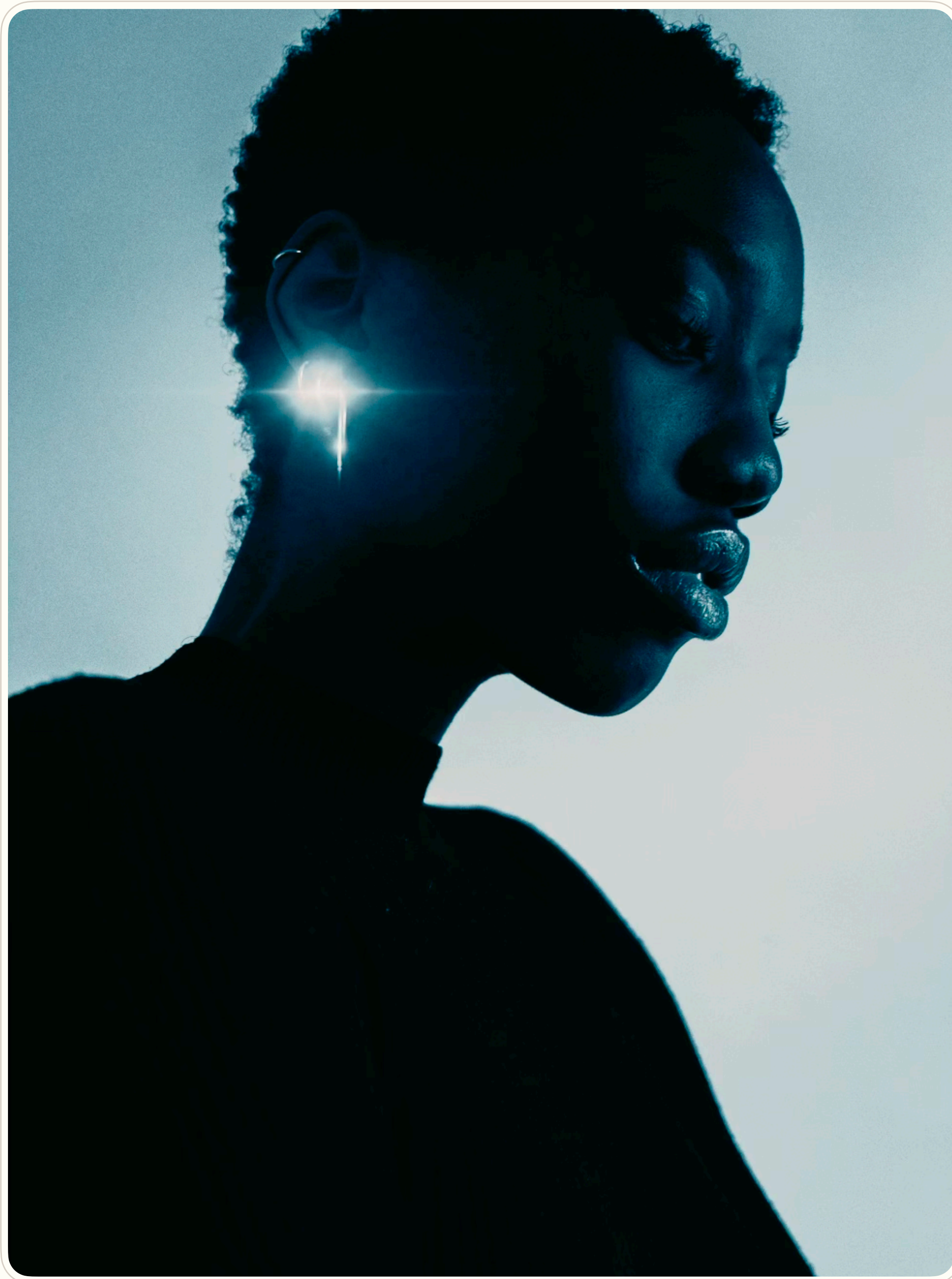




We seek to build a future where historically excluded communities are the architects, designers, and stewards of AI.

The Howard Law Artificial Intelligence Initiative will bend the arc of AI toward justice, transforming it into a force that advances human dignity, strengthens democracy, and drives equity.

—Mission



The Initiative will support diverse founders, convene communities across sectors, and ensure leaders are fluent in technology and fundamental rights.

—Foundational Principles

Our foundational principles represent an AI-powered future rooted in community, justice, and equity



Inclusion Drives Innovation

Who builds AI shapes how the technology works in the real world—diverse, inclusive teams unlock breakthrough solutions



Justice Requires Intentional Architecture

AI demands purposeful design, where justice is not an afterthought but a foundation from the very start



The Culture Always Reimagines Equity

From Basquiat to Virgil Abloh—marginalized communities always transform tools of exclusion into engines of empowerment

—Strategic Pillars

The Howard Law AI Initiative operates through three strategic pillars that demonstrate how AI can be built, governed, and scaled to advance human dignity and democratic values

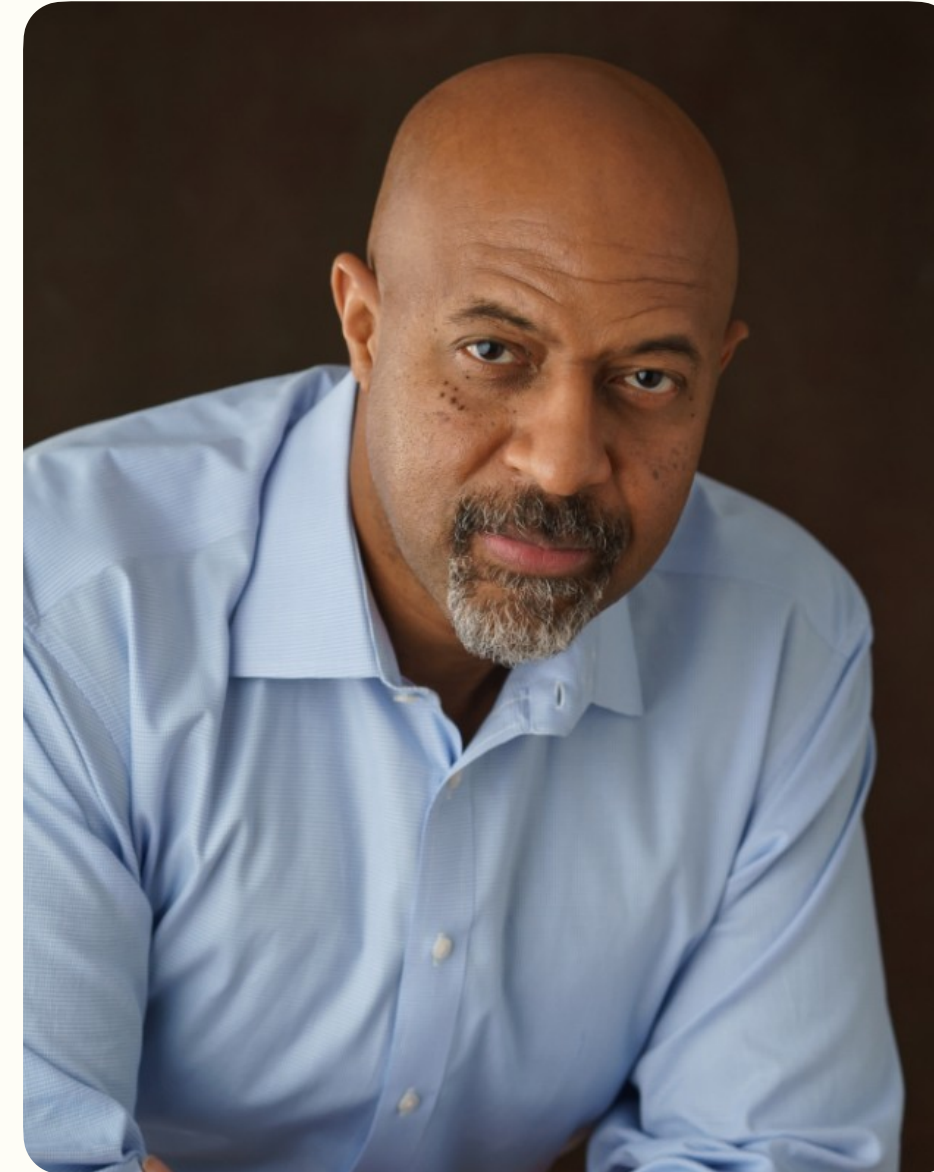


—Leadership



Dean, Howard University School of Law
Roger A. Fairfax, Jr.


“The Howard Law AI Initiative represents a critical step in bridging emerging technologies and the law. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, it will advance Howard University School of Law’s leadership in shaping ethical frameworks for technological innovation.”



Director, Howard Law AI Initiative
Roy L. Austin, Jr.

“For too long, AI development has happened without meaningful input from those who understand the real-world impact of massive technological change. The Howard Law AI Initiative will ensure that all communities have a seat at the table to build AI with justice as its North Star.”


—Team



Sandhya C. Rao

Founder, impactXdesign | BMW Responsible Leader

FORMER
Meta | Nike | USAID | Fellow, Rockefeller Foundation



Caitlin O’Grady, SHRM-CP

Confidential Assistant, Howard Law AI Initiative


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The White House | State Department | Nickelodeon
Phone2Action



Dr. David Washington


Founder, Partnerships for Purpose | Senior Advisor
for Philanthropy & Public Policy to Rosario Dawson &
Alicia Keys

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President Obama Aide



Melanca Clark

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Malika Saada Saar

Senior Fellow, Brown University

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YouTube | Google | Human Rights Lawyer| Founder,
Rights4Girls



Ariel Langley

Howard University School of Law J.D. Candidate

FORMER
DOJ | Apple

—Advisory Board



Michael Strautmanis

Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, The Obama Foundation



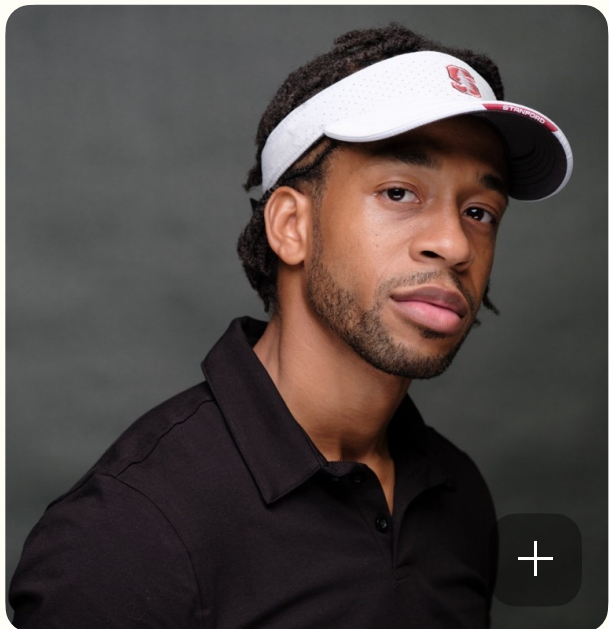
Larry Irving

President, Irving Group
Chair, PBS Board of Directors



Ty Stiklorius

Founder and CEO, Friends at Work



Joseph "Jodi" Anderson Jr.

Co-Founder, Rézme



Sarah Eagle Heart

Co-Founder, Zuyá Entertainment and Eagle Heart Collectiv



Xochitl Hinojosa

CNN Political Commentator

FORMER
Director of the Office of Public Affairs
at the Department of Justice

—Partner With Us

As the world races toward automation, intentional leadership is more urgent than ever.

Join us in bringing our vision to life.

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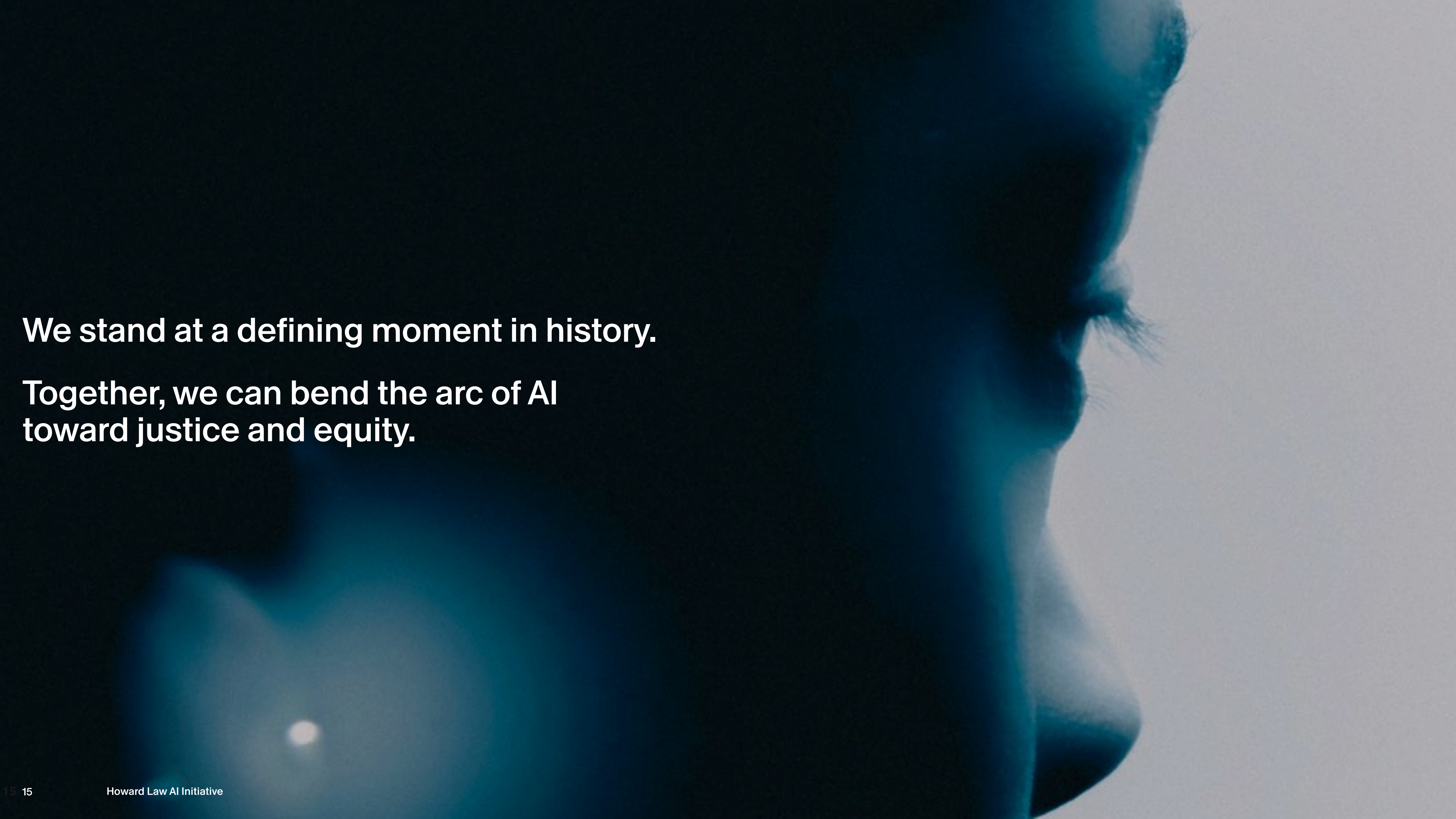
Support convenings that unite leaders

Civil Society Allies

Co-design rights-centered AI tools and frameworks

Mentors

Coach students and entrepreneurs



**We stand at a defining moment in history.
Together, we can bend the arc of AI
toward justice and equity.**

—Credits

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