

AI For The Culture

Howard Law AI Initiative

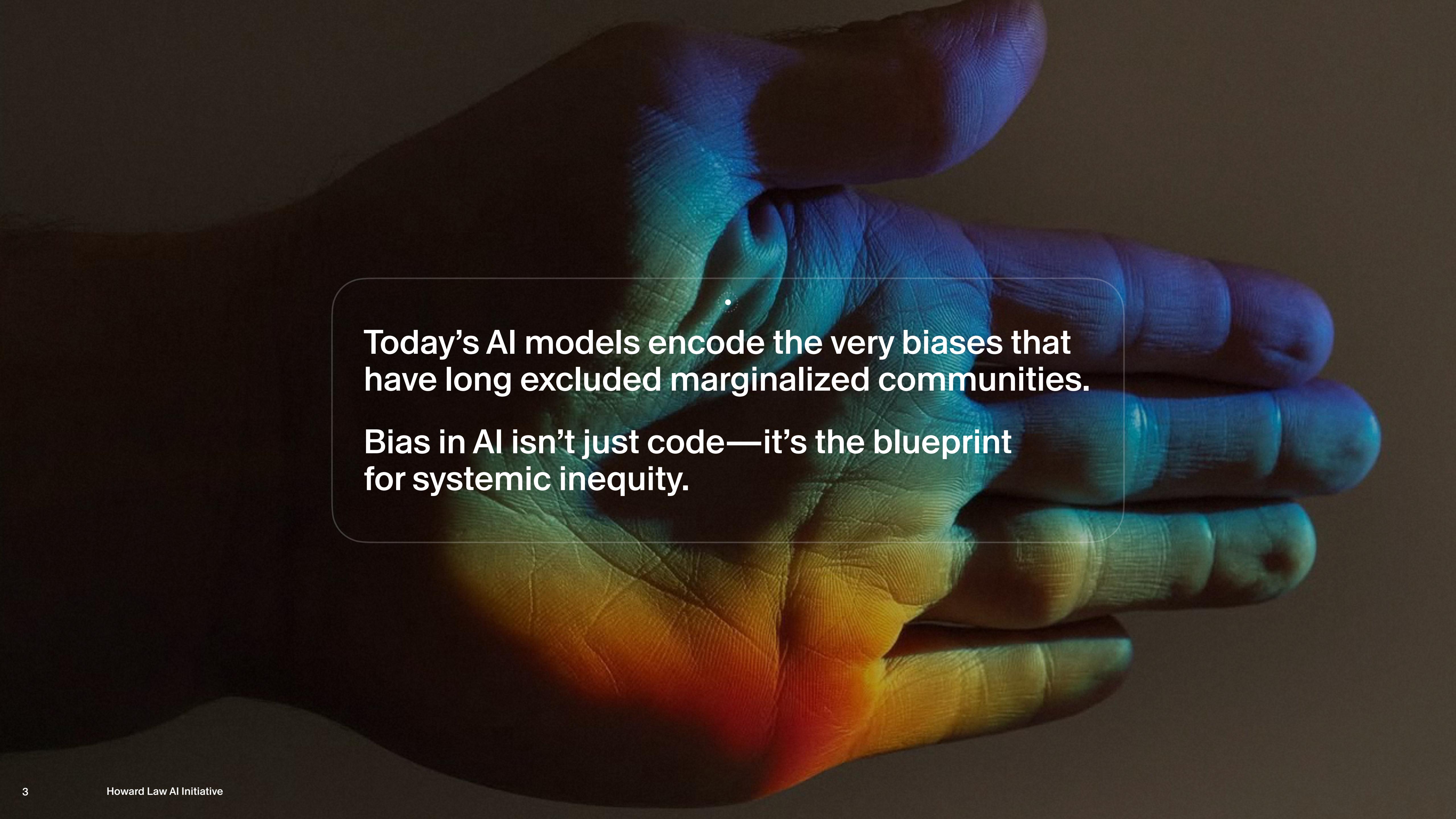
Nov 2025



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY

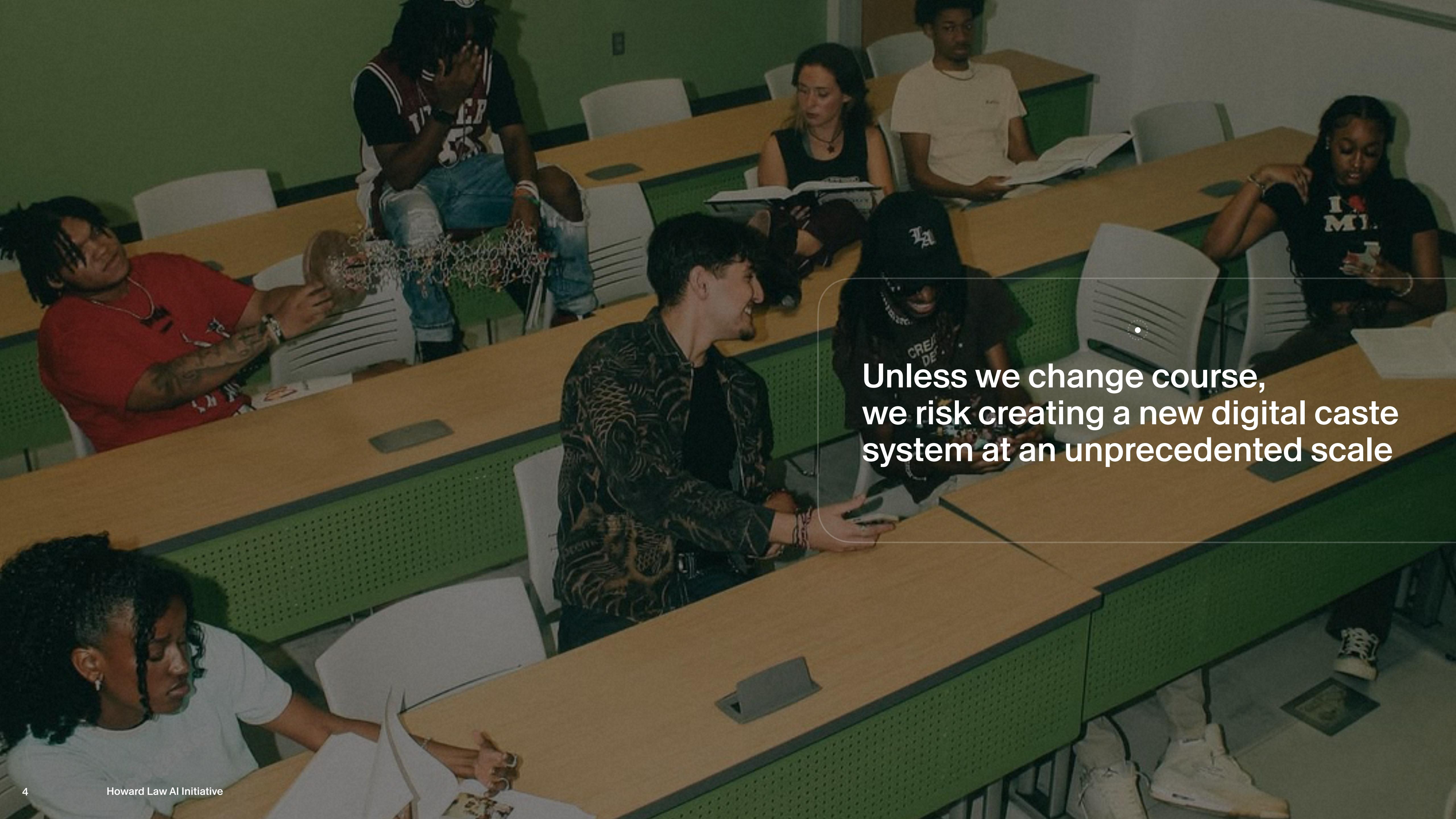


We stand at the threshold of a new civil and human rights era—one defined by algorithmic power, written in code, executed in milliseconds



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.



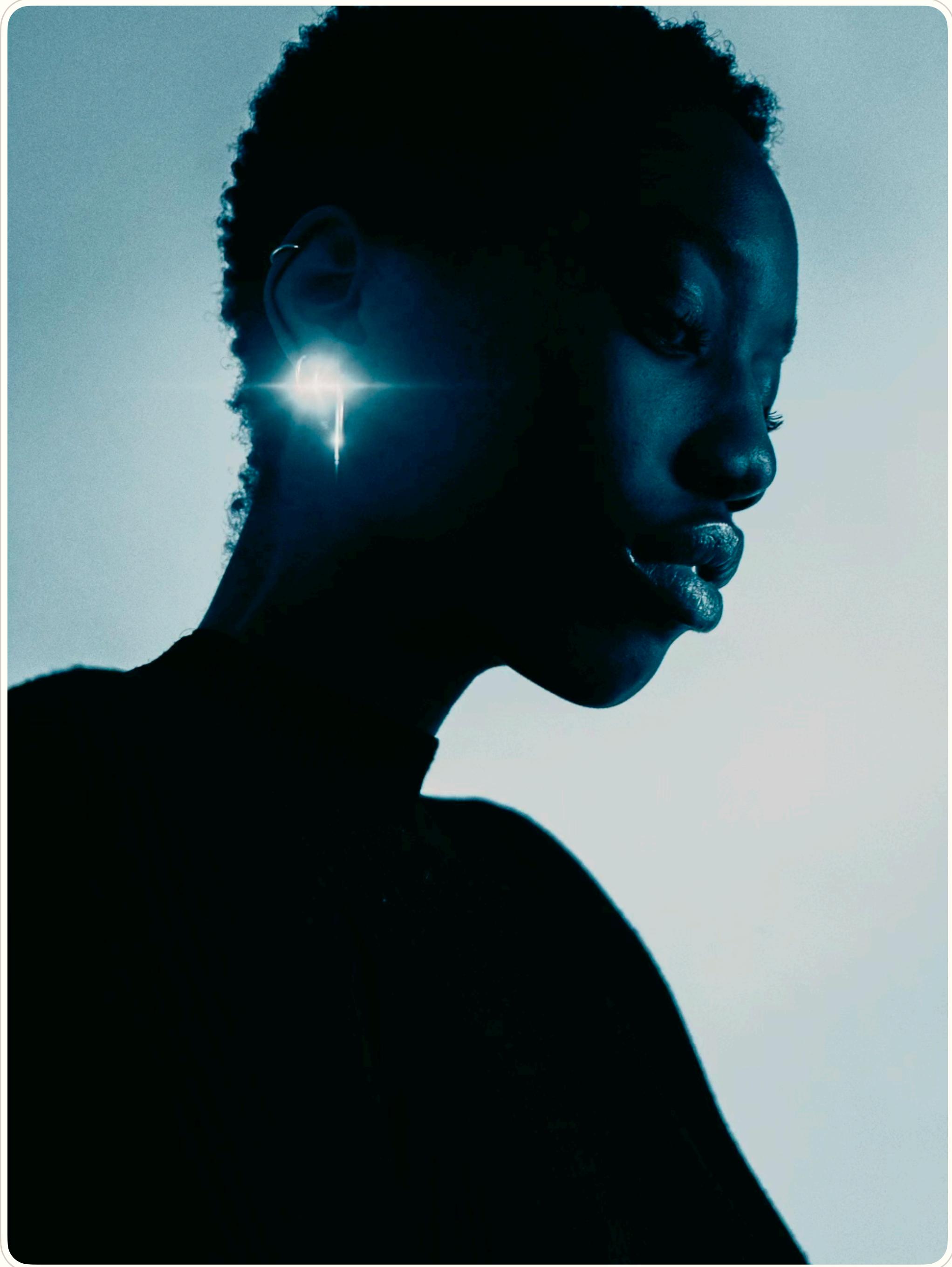
—Vision



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



Justice Lab

Create a protected space for civil rights leaders, technologists, and legal scholars to prototype rights-based AI

Develop open-source tools to expand community access and strengthen nonprofits



Impact Foundry

Support diverse, mission-driven entrepreneurs developing equity-centered technologies

Equip founders with legal, technical, and business expertise



Next Gen Leaders

Prepare future leaders to center justice in AI development

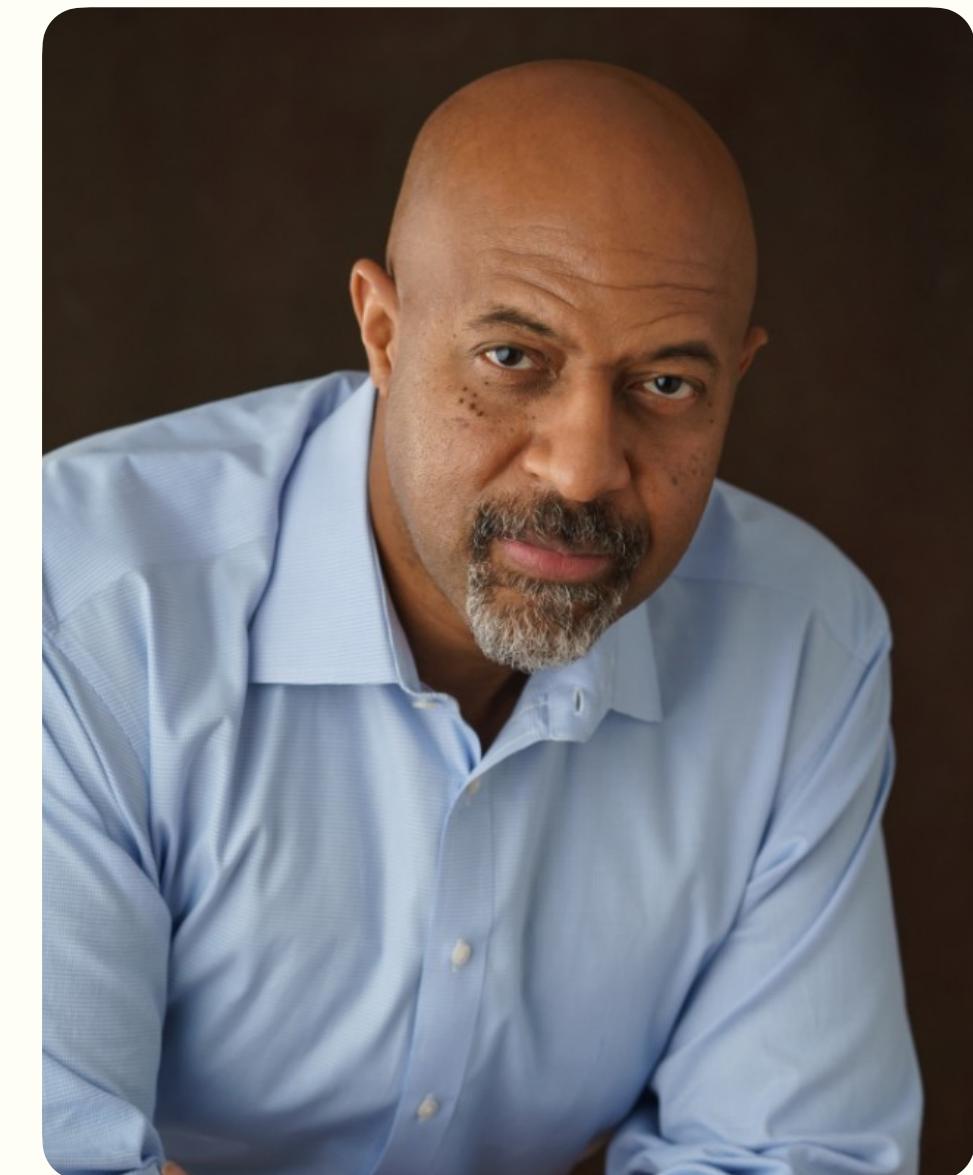
Design curricula and programs on AI's impact in law, ethics, and civil rights

—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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Hudson-Webber Foundation | Michigan Justice Fund |
The White House | DOJ

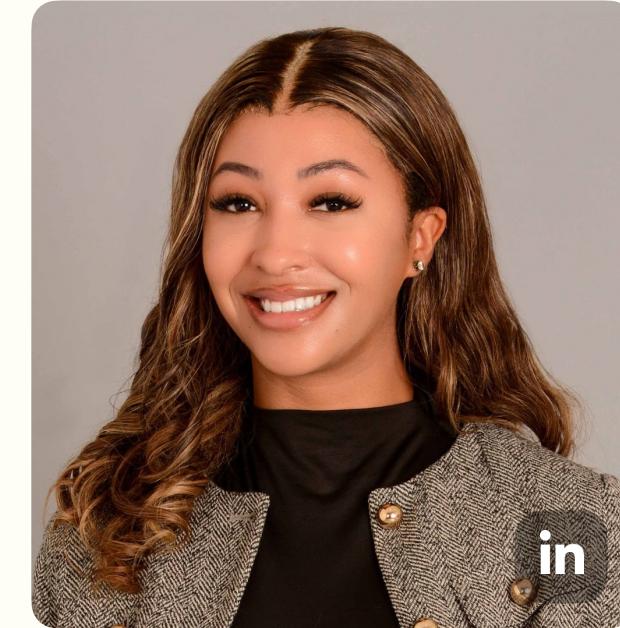


Malika Saada Saar

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

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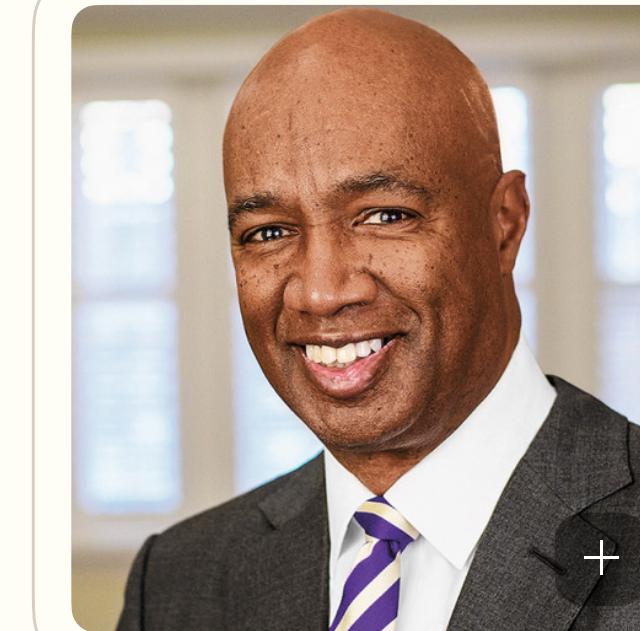
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—Advisory Board



Michael Strautmanis

Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, The Obama Foundation



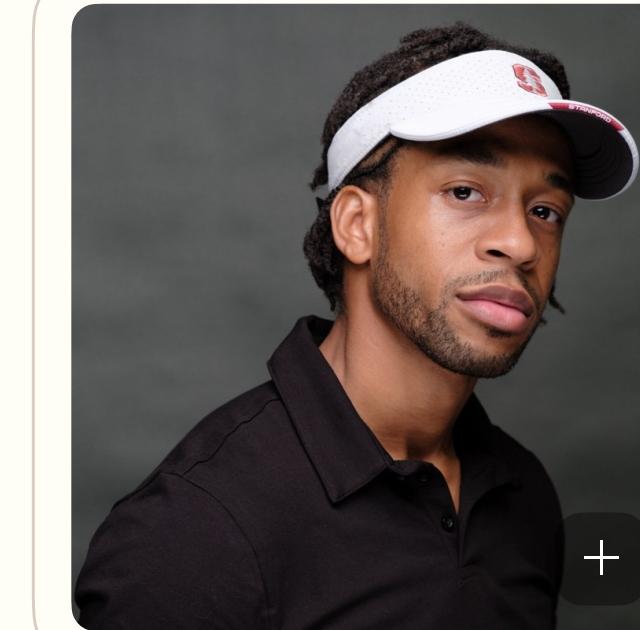
Larry Irving

President, Irving Group
Chair, PBS Board of Directors



Ty Stiklorius

Founder and CEO, Friends at Work



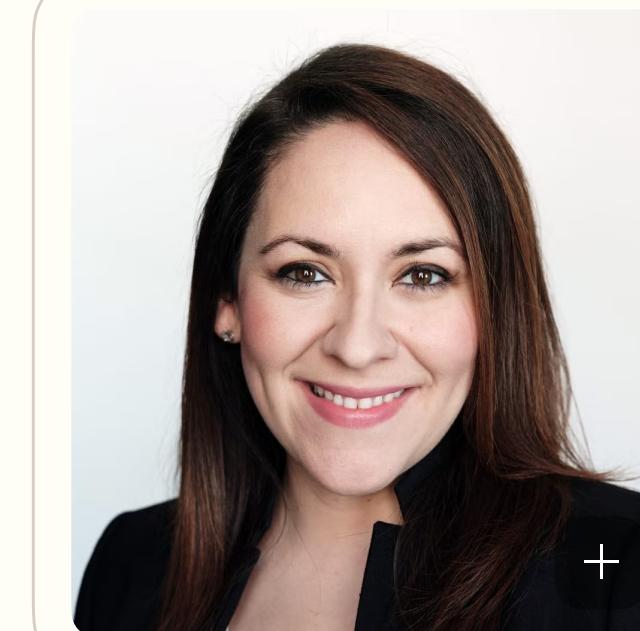
Joseph "Jodi" Anderson Jr.

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.
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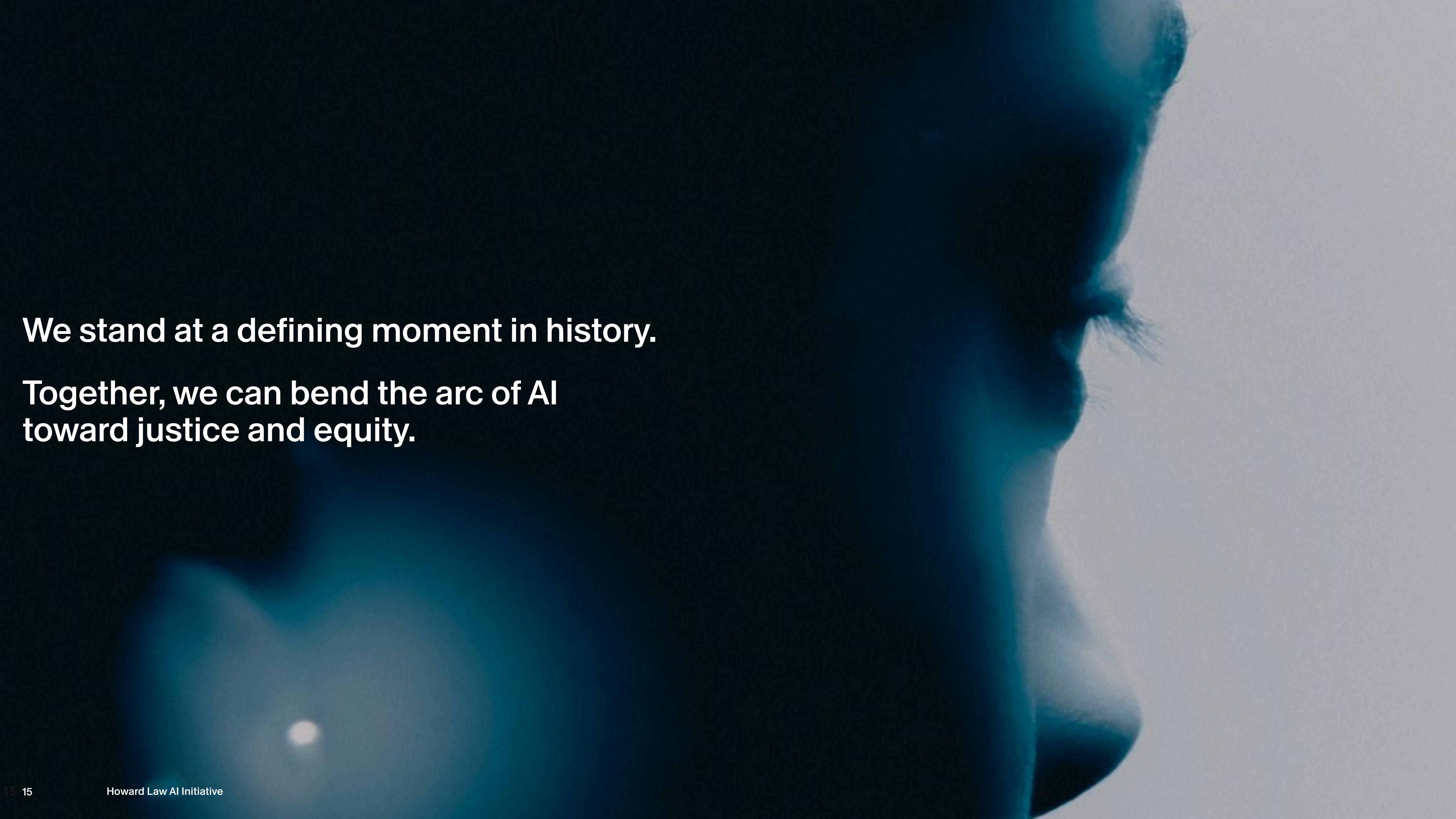
Support convenings that unite leaders

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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| 1, 14 | From the series “The Island Encounter” by Edgar Berg, 2021 |
| 2 | From the series “Company” by Ramon Haindl, 2024 |
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| 4 | Photo by @blkhppe on Instagram, 2023 |
| 5 | From the series “Believe,” by Jonas Lindstroem, 2020-2024 |
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| 9 | Photos (top to bottom): Photo unknown (reference only); Vic Moy, 2025; Hanna Moon, 2018 |
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| 13 | From the series “Revue Béauty” by Dean Giffin, 2019 |

This presentation is a product of THE WORK

