Lolita Buckner Inniss is the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University Distinguished Professor, Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow and Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law. She researches at the intersection race, gender and legal history, and is the author of The Princeton Fugitive Slave: The Trials of James Collins Johnson (Fordham University Press, 2020). The Center for Compassionate Leadership named the book one of five books white leaders should read on systemic racism along with Ta-Nehisi Coates' Between the World and Me, Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness and others. Her latest research concerns the intersection of the Black Lives Matter and #MeToo movements, and she is the co-author of an edited volume titled Talking About Black Lives Matter and #MeToo (University of California Press, forthcoming 2022, with Bridget Crawford). Professor Inniss has also published dozens of journal articles in prominent law school journals and peer-reviewed journals, several book chapters, along with scores of blog articles that have themselves been widely noted and cited. Professor Inniss is an elected member of the American Law Institute.

Professor Inniss has taught a broad range of courses, including property law, critical race theory, law in and of film, immigration law, and has served as a clinic director. She received her A.B. from Princeton University, where she majored in Romance Languages and Literature with certifications (minors) in African American and Latin American Studies. Professor Inniss earned her J.D. from UCLA where she was an editor of the National Black Law Journal. She also holds an LL.M. with Distinction and a Ph.D. in law from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, in Canada, where she focused on comparative racism and legal history, and where she received the Mary Jane Mossman Award for Work in Feminist Legal Theory, the Harley D. Hallett Award, and was a Peter Hogg Scholar and a Graduate Associate of the Institute of Feminist Legal Studies.

Prior to joining SMU, Professor Inniss was tenured and achieved the rank of full professor at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University, where she held the Joseph C. Hostetler-Baker and Hostetler Chair in Law. She also previously held the Hamilton College Elihu Root Peace Fund Visiting Professorship in Women's Studies, a distinguished visiting chair, and was also a fellow of the New York University-Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique Memory Project in Paris, France.