



REIMAGINE JUSTICE

# Roundtable on the Future of Justice Policy

## Examining Criminalization, Punitive Excess and the Courts in the United States: Implications for Justice Policy and Practice

Co-hosted by Merritt College and the Justice Lab at Columbia University

### ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

**THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019**

**Merritt College, Newton-Seale Conference Room**

*12500 Campus Drive - Building R, Room 110*

**12:30 PM WELCOME**

**Bruce Western** | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Co-Director, Justice Lab; Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice, Columbia University

**Margaret Dixon** | Department Chair, Administration of Justice, Merritt College

**Elaine Marie Burns** | President, Merritt College

**Katharine Huffman** | Executive Director, Square One Project, Justice Lab, Columbia University; Founding Principal, The Raben Group, LLC

**Robert Rooks** | Vice President, Alliance for Safety and Justice; Associate Director, Californians for Safety and Justice

**Michael McBride** | National Director for Urban Strategies, LIVE FREE Campaign

**1:00 PM ROUNDTABLE FRAMEWORK**

**Jeremy Travis** | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures; President Emeritus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

**1:45 PM THE TIE BETWEEN CRIMINALIZATION AND PUNITIVE EXCESS**

**Khalil Gibran Muhammad** | Professor of History, Race, and Public Policy, Suzanne Young Murray Professor, Harvard University

Criminalization categorizes certain conduct, status, and social activity as “criminal,” authorizing a response by the state. In the United States, this response is often extremely punitive. How has criminalization developed and expanded over the course of U.S. history? Why is the U.S. so punitive, and how has the political system facilitated this? Does our adversarial process contribute to criminalization and punitive excess? What is the connection with a historical racial reckoning?

**3:15 PM BREAK**

**3:30 PM THE HISTORY OF CRIMINALIZING IMMIGRANTS**

**Jennifer M. Chacón** | Professor of Law, University of California in Los Angeles

The U.S. has a history of creating and enforcing criminal laws that disproportionately impact immigrants, often creating new classifications of criminality to effectively criminalize immigrant populations. How has this history of immigrant criminalization impacted our perception of citizenship—of a person’s place in civil society in relation to the state? How do immigrant detention and domestic mass incarceration relate to each other in the past, present, and future?

**5:00 PM THURSDAY WRAP-UP**

Please join us for our evening reception at Everett and Jones at 126 Broadway.

**6:30 PM RECEPTION AND YOUNG ADULT VISION SETTING**

Local young adults will speak about their priorities for the criminal justice system and what safety and justice should look like.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019**

**Merritt College, Newton-Seale Conference Room**

*12500 Campus Drive - Building R, Room 110*

**9:00 AM WELCOMING REMARKS**

**Jason Seals** | Department Chair of Ethnic Studies, Professor of African American Studies, Merritt College

**9:30 AM THE COURTS AS INSTRUMENTS OF CRIMINALIZATION AND PUNITIVE EXCESS**

**Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve** | Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, University of Delaware

The courts and justice system work in service to large societal forces. As the mechanism intended to resolve disputes, the state is called upon to act on behalf of society. What is the role of the state in codifying the collective violence in the past and present? What part does it play in regulating conduct and regulating people?

**11:00 AM BREAK**

**11:15 AM THE CONDITIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF PUNITIVE EXCESS**

**Geoff Ward** | Associate Professor of African & African American Studies, Washington University in St. Louis

Exposure to punitive excess – to seclusion, separation, lengthy sentences, mandatory minimums, and brutality, whether first-hand or proximate – traumatizes individuals who are experiencing the criminal justice system and those closest to them. What are the impacts of these traumatic experiences? How do they affect the families and communities of the person who is incarcerated? How do they affect the workers—in police departments, court systems, prisons, and jails—who are charged with enforcing and implementing the law?

**12:45 PM BREAK**

**2:00 PM JUSTICE IN OAKLAND**

Oakland is widely perceived as a “progressive” city, and has made great strides in justice reform in recent years. Government actors play a key role in these achievements; yet at times governance also creates barriers to change. What are the successes and hurdles in Oakland, and how do these impact the future of justice in the community? What is the relationship between community and governance in developing and implementing policies and practices that build true safety for all?

4:00 PM        **FRIDAY WRAP-UP**

Please join us for our evening reception at Impact Hub Oakland at 2323 Broadway.

6:30 PM        **KEYNOTE RECEPTION: PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019**

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**Merritt College, Newton-Seale Conference Room**

*12500 Campus Drive - Building R, Room 110*

9:00 AM        **REFLECTIONS FROM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY**

9:45 AM        **THE POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY DRIVERS OF PUNITIVE EXCESS**

**Jennifer Eberhardt** | Professor of Psychology, Stanford University

The United States is an outlier in the punitive excess of our criminal laws: we lock up more people for longer periods of time and with broader collateral consequences than almost any other nation in the world. What are the justifications – such as securing community safety, retribution, and incapacitation – that have driven these developments? How have our democratic systems facilitated punitive excess? What are the politics and American values that lay the foundation for the outcomes of punitive excess?

11:15 AM        **BREAK**

11:30 AM        **THE VALUES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND THE PRINCIPLE OF DIGNITY**

**Jonathan Simon** | Lance Robbins Professor of Criminal Justice Law, Faculty Director, Center for the Study of Law & Society, University of California, Berkeley

The American history of criminalization and punishment runs alongside the country's history of racial and economic inequality. How do these threads relate to one another and to the values of the United States? How can a focus on human dignity successfully reduce, repair, or remove the conflicts and shortcomings - on societal or interpersonal levels - that lead to violence by individuals or by the state?

1:00 PM        **CLOSING DISCUSSION**

**Bruce Western** | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Co-Director, Justice Lab; Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice, Columbia University

1:30 PM        **PROGRAM END**

\* Special thanks to the Virtual Justice Project at North Carolina Central University School of Law for providing the Roundtable's telepresence and livestreaming services.