

FROM PARADIGM TO POLICY:

Transforming Accountability & Public Safety with Restorative Justice

Understanding restorative justice and the implementation landscape among jurisdictions across the nation

January 25-26, 2024

Symposium Program + Resource Guide

Vera INSTITUTE
OF JUSTICE

ABATM
AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

 **NACRJ**
National Association of Community
and Restorative Justice

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Program

Day 1: Panels — Open to All

Panel 1:

Restorative Justice: The Movement, The Legal System, The Future

Panel 2:

Why Choose Restorative Justice?

Panel 3:

Brass Tacks: Implementing Restorative Justice as Diversion Policy

Day 2: Workshops — Registration Required

Implementing Restorative Justice as Diversion

Restorative Victim Advocacy

Asking The Hard Questions About Restorative Justice

Coming Together: A Virtual Community Circle

About

Hosted by the Vera Institute of Justice Reshaping Prosecution Collaborative Justice Network in partnership with the Center for Racial and Economic Justice (CREJ) at the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, the American Bar Association ADR and Restorative Justice Committee (ABA), and the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice (NACRJ).

This symposium offers an expansive survey of the touchpoints and tensions of restorative justice (RJ) and the criminal legal system as well as how restorative justice is practiced and implemented in communities across the nation.

What do model policies for restorative justice look like?

Equitable

Establish eligibility criteria, location, participation requirements, language and logistical considerations that minimize bias and result in equitable access to restorative justice. Employ administrators and facilitators that reflect the communities they serve.

Centering Harmed Person's Needs

Address harmed person's trauma; actively work to prevent re-victimization and re-traumatization. Connect victims with resources like victim advocates and victim assistant services.

Voluntary

Participants must be informed and actively consent to the restorative justice process. Each participant must receive a full explanation of the process and their role in it; each participant can withdraw any time.

Trauma-Informed

Create a trauma-informed practice. Facilitators should actively create a safe environment, while also empowering participants to make their own choices and allow space for rest and recalibration.

Sustainable

Restorative practices require sufficient and durable funding to support personnel, evaluation and infrastructure like creating standards of practice, training, professional development and additional operating costs.

Inclusive + Collaborative

Make the restorative justice actively inclusive and collaborative of all participants. Intentionally elevate marginalized voices. Center collaboration by engaging harmed people, those responsible for the harm, stakeholders and community members.

Grounded in Responsibility + Accountability

Provide a pathway for people who are responsible for harm to take accountability for past and future actions in a nonpunitive, strength-based process. Elements of accountability include: accepting and acknowledging the impact of one's actions, expressing remorse for the harms, repairing the harm and making amends guided where possible by the needs and wishes of the person harmed and taking steps to ensure one does not repeat the harm.

Confidential

Protect and honor confidentiality during all phases of the restorative justice process. Ensure participants' privacy and prevent use of a restorative process for adversarial or punitive purposes.

[Source: The National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Policy Statement Community and Restorative Justice in Criminal and Juvenile Legal Systems, January 2022](#)

Restorative Justice Diversion

Implementation Partners

Vera Institute's Reshaping Prosecution Initiative

Reshaping Prosecution Initiative works with prosecutors and community-based organizations to reduce incarceration, primarily by keeping people out of the system and building evidence for alternative approaches to long-term public safety. Reshaping Prosecution's work is guided by three principles that support safer communities: shrinking the number of people who enter the criminal legal system; addressing systemic racial disparities; and increasing collaboration with directly impacted communities.

Restorative Justice Project, Equal Justice USA

The Restorative Justice Project at Equal Justice USA leads the expansion of restorative justice diversion programs across the country. The Project offers direct training and technical assistance to a National Restorative Justice Diversion cohort of community-based organizations and leaders from the criminal and juvenile legal systems.

Common Justice

Common Justice is the first alternative-to-incarceration and victim-service program in the United States that focuses on violent felonies in the adult courts. Locally and nationally, Common Justice leverages the lessons from their direct service to transform the justice system through partnerships, advocacy, and elevating the experience and power of those most impacted.

Center for Justice Innovation

The Center for Justice Innovation works with communities and systems to advance equity and cultivate lasting forms of safety. For over a decade, the Center has implemented restorative justice in schools, communities and courts. In Fall of 2024, CJI, in partnership with The National Center on Restorative Justice, will offer RJ training and technical assistance to criminal justice agencies funded by Bureau of Justice Assistance. Training recipients will be eligible to apply for additional implementation funding.

Sample Policies

- Washtenaw County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney Restorative Justice Policy
- Washtenaw County Trial Court Local Administrative Order Restorative Justice Criminal Diversion Program
- Report of Restorative Justice Approaches in Prosecutor-Led Diversion
 - National District Attorneys Association Diversion Map
- National Association for Community and Restorative Justice + National Center of Restorative Justice comprehensive U.S. Map of RJ programs (in development)

Restorative Justice Communities

The National Association of Community and Restorative Justice

The National Association of Community and Restorative Justice (NACRJ) has convened eight National Conferences on Community and Restorative Justice since 2007. The next conference is July 29 – August 1, 2024 in Washington D.C. Formally established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 2013, NACRJ not only hosts the national conference but also offers membership services, formulates position and policy statements, and provides a growing number of programs and services to support and advance the fields of community and restorative justice.

The National Center of Restorative Justice

The National Center on Restorative Justice (NCORJ) is a partnership between Vermont Law and Graduate School, the University of Vermont, the University of San Diego, and the U.S. Office of Justice Programs. The NCORJ is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to educate and train the next generation of justice leaders and to support and lead research focusing on restorative justice and addressing social inequities to improve criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.

The Colorado Restorative Justice Coordinating Council (RJ Council)

The Colorado Restorative Justice Coordinating Council (RJ Council) is made up of 19 appointed board members representing a diverse group of stakeholders (state government agencies, restorative justice practitioners and victim services) who work with communities, state and local organizations to support the implementation of restorative justice practices across the state of Colorado.

Restorative Justice Coalition of Oregon

RJCO is a coalition of Oregon restorative justice practitioners and programs. We promote and support the implementation and practice of restorative justice principles and models in Oregon's justice, law enforcement, educational, and other community institutions.

Read

[Faced With A Violent Killing, A Family Chooses Forgiveness Over Prison | The Guardian](#)

[Boston Globe series on Restorative Justice](#)

[Opinion: Reckoning with Violence | The New York Times](#)

[Car Crash Victims Seek Justice in a New Way: Talking to the Drivers | The New York Times](#)

Listen

[This Restorative Justice Life Podcast](#)

[The Restorative Lens Podcast](#)

[Chasing Justice Podcast, Interview with Danielle Sered](#)

[Restoring Justice with Erika Sasson](#)

[Bias, Decision-Making, & Risk with Seth Lennon Nguyen-Weiner and Richard Cruz](#)

Watch

[Restorative Justice in Action: New Approaches in the Most Serious Cases,](#)
Institute for Innovation in Prosecution at John Jay College

[The Redemption Project with Van Jones, CNN](#)

[The Prison Within, Directed by Katherin Hervey](#)

Research

[Thalia González | The State of Restorative Justice in American Criminal Law | Wisconsin Law Review](#)

[Thalia González | Restorative Justice Diversion as a Structural Health Intervention in the Criminal Legal System | Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology](#)

[Bruce A. Green and Lara Bazelon | Restorative Justice From Prosecutors' Perspective | Fordham Law Review](#)

[Adriaan Lanni | Taking Restorative Justice Seriously | Buffalo Law Review](#)

[Miriam Krinsky and Taylor Phares | Accountability and Repair: The Prosecutor's Case for Restorative Justice | New York Law School Law Review](#)

[Catherine S. Kimbrell, M.A., Ajima Olaghere, Ph.D., David B. Wilson, Ph.D | Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Principles in Juvenile Justice: A Meta-Analysis | George Mason University](#)

[Tanya Rugge & Terri-Lynne Scott | Restorative Justice's Impact on Participants' Psychological and Physical Health | Public Safety Canada](#)

[Heather Strang, et al. | Restorative Justice Conferencing \(RJC\) Using Face-to-Face Meetings of Offenders and Victims: Effects on Offender Recidivism and Victim Satisfaction. A Systematic Review | The Campbell Collaboration](#)

[sujatha baliga, Sia Henry, Georgia Valentine | Restorative Community Conferencing: A Study of Community Works West's Restorative Justice Youth Diversion program in Alameda County | Impact Justice and Community Works](#)

[Caitlin O'Neil | Restorative Justice as Diversion in California's Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems: Potential Impacts and State Policy | California Senate Office of Research](#)

[Katherine Beckett and Marina Kartman | Violence, Mass Incarceration and Restorative Justice: Promising Possibilities | University of Washington](#)

[The Conservative Case for Restorative Justice | The Annie E. Casey Foundation | R Street Institute](#)

Guides

[Restorative Justice Guidelines for Smaller Jurisdictions John Jay College of Criminal Justice](#)

[Pre-Adjudication Restorative Justice: Models and Practices ABA Criminal Justice Section](#)

[A Comparison of Four Restorative Conferencing Models](#)

Resources for Practitioners & System Professionals

Victim Advocacy

[Alliance for Safety and Justice](#)

[Ampersands Restorative Justice](#)

[Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#)

[National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#)
[\(with links to state coalitions\)](#)

[Restorative Justice & Gender Violence Webinar](#)

+ [Webinar Resource List](#), ABA Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence

Learning Restorative Practice

[Online Trainings at Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking](#),
University of Minnesota Duluth

[Circle Keeping 101 by Stronghold](#)

[Workshops and Trainings by Integral Justice](#)

[Circle Keeper's Handbook by Kay Pranis](#)

[Online Circle Keeper Toolkit](#)

Suffolk University Center for Restorative Justice

[Free Webinars from International Institute for Restorative Practices](#)

Note: This resource guide offers just some of the many resources on restorative justice and other relevant areas. This is not a comprehensive overview, and there are varied approaches to restorative practices and implementation.

Links From The Chat

Panel 1

Danielle Sered

For a deeper discussion on the power of choosing repair over punishment [check out the book “Until We Reckon” by Danielle Sered.](#)

[Common Justice](#) develops and advances solutions to violence that transform the lives of those harmed and foster racial equity without relying on incarceration.

Common Justice Practitioners Lab is a 12-month cohort-based training and practice lab available to practitioners who are working to divert cases of serious violence in the adult courts toward restorative and non-carceral approaches to accountability. Applications are due February 16; [apply here.](#)

Seema Gajwani

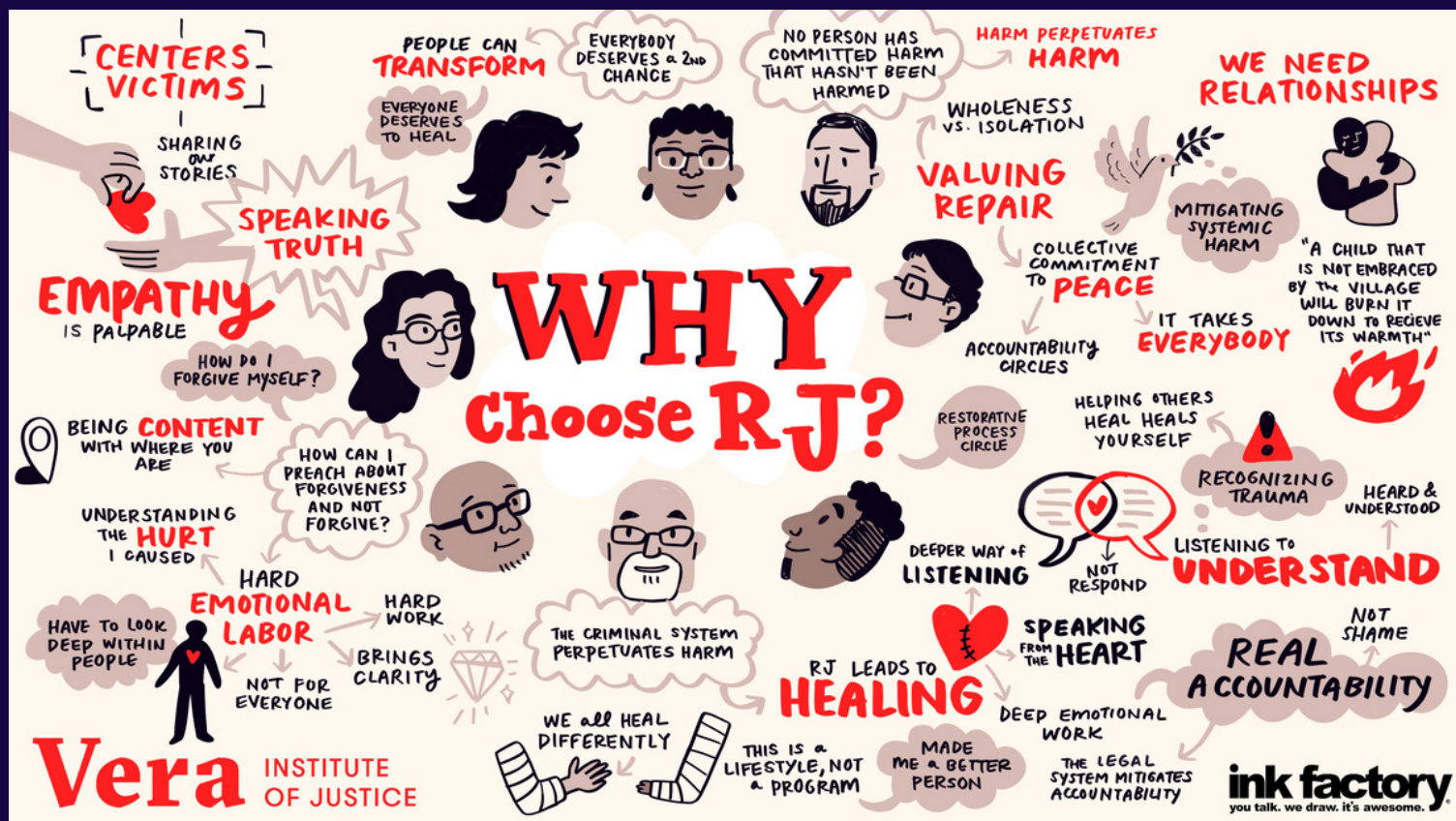
The Restorative Justice Program is the first of its kind in the nation. [Learn more about this innovative program for crime survivors here.](#)

Learn more about restorative justice research mentioned by Seema here: [Twelve Experiments in Restorative Justice: The Jerry Lee Program of Randomized Trials of Restorative Justice Conferences.](#)

Mike Milton

Freedom Community Center ground its work on five main principles: Collective Power, Communal Healing, True Accountability, Embracing Repair, and Nonviolence. [Learn more here.](#)

[Listen to Mike share more about building a movement of survivors and utilizing restorative practices in St. Louis.](#)



Panel 2: Why Choose RJ? Held in a circle process.

Circle-Keepers:
Javon Lomax & Paulina Pride

Speakers:
Judge Wesley Saint Clair
Rev. Annette C. Love
Elder Alex Fields

Tristen Edwards
James Herbert
Richard Cruz

Links From The Chat

Panel 2

Javon Lomax

We Build the Block centers its work around directly impacted young people, reducing gun violence and promoting community driven solutions. [Learn more here.](#)

Land and Labor Acknowledgement

Use this guide from Native Land Digital to learn about what indigenous land you are currently situated on.

Please consider donating or sharing these links to support grassroots indigenous organizations and peacemaking practices:

[North American Indigenous Center NY Startup Fund](#)

[Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative](#)

[Canadian Roots Exchange](#)

James Herbert

[Hear AUSA Jamie Herbert in a discussion](#) about the RISE Program offering restorative justice at the federal level in Massachusetts.

Tristen Edwards

The Restorative Justice Coalition of Oregon is advocating for and aiding in the implementation and use of restorative practices in institutions across the state. [Learn more here.](#)

Links From The Chat

Panel 2 cont.

Judge Wesley Saint Clair

[Watch Judge Saint Clair's Ted Talk](#) on advancing restorative justice to rely less on juvenile justice systems.

Rev. Annette C. Love

Rev. Annette Love is a restorative justice practitioner with Restorative Justice Durham. [Read more about their work here.](#)

Elder Alex Fields

Alex Fields and his family's story [was recently featured in The Guardian, which you can read here.](#)

Richard Cruz

The Ahimsa Collective offers Restorative Justice approaches including victim-offender dialogues, survivor support, and in-prison programs centered around healing. [Learn more here.](#)



Symposium Soundtrack

Listen to the music played throughout the symposium [here on Spotify.](#)



Panel 3: Brass Tacks: Implementing Restorative Justice as Diversion

Moderated by:
Meghan Nayak

Panelists:

County Attorney Reese Fredrickson
District Attorney Sherry Boston
District Attorney Dalia Racine

Cymone Fuller
Belinda Dulin
Jonathan Scharrer

Links From The Chat

Panel 3

Cymone Fuller

[Read more](#) about the Restorative Justice Project's National Restorative Justice Diversion cohort of community-based organizations and leaders from the criminal and juvenile legal systems working together to introduce pre-charge restorative justice diversion.

Jonathan Scharrer

Jonathan Scharrer is the Director of the Restorative Justice Project at the University of Wisconsin Law School. [Read more about their work here.](#)

Belinda Dulin

[Read about the restorative justice offerings](#) of The Dispute Resolution Center in Washtenaw, Michigan.

County Attorney Reese Fredrickson, Pine County, MN

The Pine County Minnesota County Attorney's Office offers Restorative Justice diversion to juveniles through the C5 program. [Learn more here.](#)

District Attorney Sherry Boston, DeKalb County, GA

District Attorney Dalia Racine, Douglas County, GA

DA Boston and DA Racine are both steering committee members at Restorative Justice Georgia, the first restorative justice program in the state to address harm caused by felony offenses. [Learn more here.](#)

District Attorney Office of DeKalb County [Informational Flyer on RJ.](#)

FROM PARADIGM TO POLICY: TRANSFORMING ACCOUNTABILITY & PUBLIC SAFETY WITH RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

January 25, 2024



Amy Dallas
Symposium
Emcee

Amy Dallas is the program manager of the Vera Institute of Justices Reshaping Prosecution Collaborative Justice Network. She works with communities and prosecutor offices nationwide to divert people away from the criminal legal system and address racial disparities through forging partnerships between stakeholders and providing collaborative opportunities that increase expertise and strengthen sustainable public safety.

Before joining Vera in 2022, Amy worked for The Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn, New York, as a public defender for over a decade. She also provided legal and organizational support to an emerging restorative justice nonprofit led by formerly incarcerated community leaders infusing restorative practice into reentry.

Amy is first-generation American. Her work is informed by the injustices experienced by her family living under an oppressive regime and the deep understanding there is much more to be done for this country to truly fulfill the promise of liberty and justice for all.

Amy serves as Secretary on the Board of the National Association for Community and Restorative Justice (NACRJ) and is a member of the NACRJ Law and Policy Working Group. Amy holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminology from Eastern Michigan University Honors College and Juris Doctor from Fordham University School of Law.

FROM PARADIGM TO POLICY: TRANSFORMING ACCOUNTABILITY & PUBLIC SAFETY WITH RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

January 25, 2024



Mona Sahaf
Symposium
Presenter

Mona Sahaf is the director of Vera Institute of Justice's Reshaping Prosecution initiative, which helps communities increase public safety by shrinking the front end of the legal system, addressing racial disparities in prosecution, and increasing prosecutors' collaboration with the people most impacted by their decisions. She oversees her team's technical assistance work.

Before joining Vera in 2021, Mona worked as a federal prosecutor in the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions section at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, focusing on domestic violence and national security cases. At DOJ, Mona built a program to protect Central American migrants who were kidnapped in Mexico.

In addition to her work at Vera, Mona serves on the boards of organizations working to preserve Kashmiri culture and secure human rights in Kashmir.

Mona holds a BA in history and government from Georgetown University and a JD from Boston University School of Law.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: THE MOVEMENT, THE LEGAL SYSTEM, THE FUTURE

Panel 1 | January 25, 2024



Thalia González
Moderator

Thalia González is a Professor of Law and Harry & Lillian Hastings Research Chair at UC Law San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings). She is faculty co-director of the Center for Racial and Economic Justice. She also holds an appointment as a Senior Scholar in the Center on Gender Justice and Opportunity at Georgetown University Law Center.

Professor González's research and policy portfolio centers on legal, political, social, and economic drivers of racial and gender disparities in public systems with special attention on norms, practices, policies, and legislation specific to restorative justice. In recognition of her long-term research contributions in the field of restorative justice, Professor González is the recipient of the 2022 National Association of Community and Restorative Justice (NACRJ) Research Award. She has received grant funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Grantmakers for Girls of Color, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Atlantic Philanthropies for her scholarship and is an expert reviewer for federal agencies, national foundations, and numerous high-impact journals as well served as a consultant for the National Institute of Justice.

Professor González's work has been published or is forthcoming in Boston College Law Review, American Law Review, NYU Review of Law & Social Change, and many more. In addition to leading academic journals, her work appears in The Washington Post, The Atlantic, and The New York Times. She is a co-author of *Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls' Childhood*, the groundbreaking study of the adultification of Black girls. Professor González is Co-Chair, ABA Criminal Justice Section, Alternative Dispute Resolution & Restorative Justice Committee, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Public Health Advocates, and a member of the Board of Directors, National Association of Community and Restorative Justice. She serves on the Association of American Law Schools Executive Committee for the Section on Minority Groups and is an active collaborator with the San Francisco Truth, Justice & Reconciliation Commission.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: THE MOVEMENT, THE LEGAL SYSTEM, THE FUTURE

Panel 1 | January 25, 2024



Danielle Sered
Panelist

Danielle Sered envisioned, launched, and directs Common Justice. She leads the project's efforts locally and nationally to develop and advance practical and groundbreaking solutions to violence that advance racial equity, meet the needs of those harmed, and do not rely on incarceration. Before planning the launch of Common Justice, Danielle served as the deputy director of the Vera Institute of Justice's Adolescent Reentry Initiative, a program for young men returning from incarceration on Rikers Island. Prior to joining Vera, she worked at the Center for Court Innovation's Harlem Community Justice Center, where she led its programs for court-involved and recently incarcerated youth. An Ashoka fellow and Stoneleigh fellow, Danielle received her BA from Emory University and her masters degrees from New York University and Oxford University (UK), where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar.

Her book, Until We Reckon, was honored with the Award for Journalism from the National Association for Community and Restorative Justice and selected by the National Book Foundation for its Literature for Justice recognition. She received the Brown Memorial Baptist Church Extraordinary Woman Award and the 67th Precinct Council Award for Service, given in recognition for leadership in reducing violence in Brooklyn. Danielle has served on the Downstate Coalition for Crime Victims, the New York State Governor's Council on Reentry and Community Reintegration, and the Executive Session on the Future of Justice Policy in America. Common Justice received the Award for Innovation in Victim Services from the federal Office for Victims of Crime in 2012. Danielle has been featured widely in the public conversation about mass incarceration and violence, including the Aspen Ideas Festival the Atlantic Magazine Summit on Race and Justice, in the New York Times, the Washington Post, USA Today, on Democracy Now, NPR, and On Second Thought with Trevor Noah. Danielle is the author of the reports *The Other Side of Harm: Addressing Disparities in our Responses to Violence*, *Accounting for Violence: How to Increase Safety and Break Our Failed Reliance on Mass Incarceration*, and the book *Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and a Road to Repair*.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: THE MOVEMENT, THE LEGAL SYSTEM, THE FUTURE

Panel 1 | January 25, 2024



Mike Milton
Panelist

Mike Milton is the Founder and Executive Director of Freedom Community Center (FCC), a transformative justice hub in North City, St. Louis. FCC operates one of the first alternatives-to-incarceration and victim services processes for serious violence in the country.

Mike is a transformative justice and somatic practitioner, organizer, and healer. Over the years, he spearheaded numerous successful organizing campaigns to close jails and build Black electoral power. In his organizing work he built local and statewide coalitions, advocated for legislative change in pretrial justice toward abolition and built and operated a local bail fund operation.

Through his work, he secured the release of more than 4,000 people in the St. Louis region. His focus lies at the intersection of promoting the practice of peacemaking, community organizing, violence interruption, and public policy. Driving real transformative policy change that invests in poor and Black communities as a crucial focal point. Rooted in an abolitionist future, he's dedicated to doing the work of tearing down these systems of oppression and actively building a world in which everyone, especially Black people are free.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: THE MOVEMENT, THE LEGAL SYSTEM, THE FUTURE

Panel 1 | January 25, 2024



Seema Gajwani
Panelist

Seema Gajwani is Special Counsel for Juvenile Justice Reform and Chief of the Restorative Justice Program Section at the D.C. Office of the Attorney General.

Prior to this position, Gajwani ran the Criminal Justice Program at the Public Welfare Foundation in Washington, D.C., funding efforts to improve criminal and juvenile justice systems across the country, with a focus on pretrial detention reform and prosecutorial culture change.

Gajwani started her career as a trial attorney at the D.C. Public Defender Service representing juvenile and adult defendants for 6 years. She was chosen as a 2019 Obama Fellow for her work on restorative justice, and was awarded the ABA's 2022 Crime Victim Attorney Award.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: THE MOVEMENT, THE LEGAL SYSTEM, THE FUTURE

Panel 1 | January 25, 2024



Victoria Burton-Harris
Panelist

Victoria M. Burton-Harris serves as the chief assistant prosecutor for Washtenaw County.

In 2014, she opened a private firm in the heart of downtown Detroit, specializing in family law and criminal defense at the state and federal trial court level. She has represented hundreds of families across Michigan in cases ranging from child custody to murder. When Burton-Harris started her firm, she had the vision of being a "people's lawyer" and using her law degree to be a vehicle for change. Her passion for justice and equality has led to her involvement with several grassroots organizations as a legal adviser, including We The People-Detroit, Metro Detroit Association for Cab Drivers, BYP-100, and New Era Detroit. She has served on the Legal Services Advisory Committee for HAVEN of Oakland County, developing trauma-informed training criteria and procedures for attorneys handling domestic violence cases. She also has served on the New Lawyers Advisory Board for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, where she has also presented at conferences and seminars.

Burton-Harris currently sits on the Coalition for Police Transparency & Accountability, National Conference of Black Lawyers, the board of directors for the National Lawyers Guild Michigan chapter, and the board of directors for Covenant House Michigan, a youth homeless shelter where she developed a mentoring program for residents. Burton-Harris understands the nexus between youth development and criminal justice reform. She has spent her career working for children and families, defending them against the brutal system of mass incarceration. Throughout her professional career she has used the law to help members of the most vulnerable communities, and her experiences advocating on behalf of her clients have helped her identify some of the worst inequities of our criminal justice system.

WHY CHOOSE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Panel 2 | January 25, 2024



Paulina Pride
Circle Keeper

Paulina Pride is a program associate with Vera's Reshaping Prosecution initiative, working with elected prosecutors and community organizations nationwide to divert people away from and address racial disparities in the criminal legal system, while making district attorney offices more accountable to the communities they serve.

In their role, Paulina supports the Collaborative Justice Network and Deep Dive Site Engagements. Before joining Vera in 2023, Paulina led restorative justice, youth diversion, and social justice education initiatives at the Center for Justice Innovation via the Harlem Community Justice Center and the Red Hook Community Justice Center. While working at the Red Hook Community Justice Center Paulina became a certified peacemaker after receiving training in peacemaking practices from experts in the field of restorative practices and indigenous tribal leaders of the Onondaga Nation.

Paulina holds a BA in political science with a minor in philosophy, law, and ethics from the University of Nevada, Reno. As an undergraduate student, they were chief justice of the university, a Reuben C. Thompson philosophy scholar, and a recipient of the Henry Albert Senior Public Service Award. Paulina has also worked as an advocate with unhoused young people during their undergraduate years and organized a student leader coalition for police accountability on the University's campus.

WHY CHOOSE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Panel 2 | January 25, 2024



Javon Lomax
Circle Keeper

Javon Lomax is a Restorative Justice practitioner experienced in facilitating a variety of spaces centered in healing and community building.

Since 2020, Javon has served as a circle keeper for the Restorative Justice Initiative, Center for Justice Innovation, and We Build The Block. Javon continues to challenge and push the field of RJ forward and support individuals and communities in unlocking their healing through storytelling, which he calls the medicine within.

WHY CHOOSE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Panel 2 | January 25, 2024



Jamie Herbert
Panelist

Jamie Herbert is a career federal prosecutor. He joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in Boston in 1990 after several years of private practice in New York. He has worked on a variety of cases, including organized crime, narcotics, child exploitation, and health care fraud. He has served as chief of the organized crime and gang unit and as deputy chief of the criminal division.

Herbert has facilitated restorative justice circles in Massachusetts state prisons and has helped coordinate the federal court's restorative justice program. A graduate of Princeton University and the University of Virginia School of Law, he has received training from the International Institute of Restorative Practices and Eastern Mennonite University's Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. He has also served as an adjunct instructor in restorative justice at Boston University's School of Theology and School of Law.

WHY CHOOSE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Panel 2 | January 25, 2024



Alex Fields
Panelist

From Durham, North Carolina, Alex Fields graduated from the last class of Little River High School in 1969. The next school year was the beginning of integration throughout all school systems. He went on to Durham Technical College and graduated in 1972 with an Applied Associates Degree in Business Administration. Upon graduation, he was hired by GTE Data Services, now known as Verizon.

Later Fields worked for pharmaceutical giant Burroughs Wellcome, RTP, followed by 12 years at International Business Machines (IBM) RTP. Fields continued his education at North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina, and Saint Augustine University, Raleigh, North Carolina. After an over 27 year career Fields spent the next 13 years in Retail Sales, first as a Sales Associate, then Department Manager, and finally, Assistant Manager, at Dillard's Inc., in Durham, North Carolina. He also lead teams at Wal-Mart as a Department Manager, then later as an Assistant Store Manager. He is also an entrepreneur of several businesses: Delectable Treats, a catering company, The Look by Alexander, a fashion service, and Sugar and Spice and Everything Sweet.

He was ordained as an Elder in 2018 and continues to serve at Faith Community Church International in Durham. As the Chairman of the Deacons Ministry, he and the ministry continue to serve the Durham community in various capacities.

Fields and his family were featured in [The Guardian](#) for choosing a restorative justice pathway for accountability and healing.

WHY CHOOSE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Panel 2 | January 25, 2024



Tristen Edwards
Panelist

Tristen Edwards is an attorney at Metropolitan Public Defender, where she represents individuals charged with major felony crimes and works on policy issues related to promoting the use of restorative justice as an alternative to prosecution.

Edwards is a Coordinating Committee Member of the Restorative Justice Coalition of Oregon and leads the coalition's legislative advocacy efforts. She also serves on Governor Kotek's Racial Justice Council's Criminal Justice Reform Committee and chairs the Council's Subcommittee on the Department of Corrections.

She has a strong commitment to diversity and is the founder and chair of the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Tristen has been recognized for her work amplifying the voices of marginalized people and promoting effective and compassionate responses to harm by the Oregon New Lawyers Division, the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association, and Oregon Women Lawyers.

WHY CHOOSE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Panel 2 | January 25, 2024



**The Honorable J.
Wesley Saint Clair
Panelist**

Judge Saint Clair joined the Criminal Division of the Office of the King County Prosecuting Attorney shortly after his graduation from the University of Washington Law School and his completion of undergraduate work at Yale University. After leaving the prosecutor's office in 1986, he opened a private practice in Bellevue where he specialized in criminal defense work. Judge Saint Clair was appointed to the Northeast Division of the King County District Court in September of 1991. He was elected the Presiding Judge for King County District Court in the fall of 2001 and served as a presiding judge until July of 2004, when he was appointed to the King County Superior Court by Governor Gary Locke. He retired from the bench in 2019.

Judge Saint Clair has been active in the courts concerning technology, community engagement, and therapeutic Jurisprudence. He was recognized for his work in drug courts by the New York Times in 2008 and sat on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals until 2021. In 2003, Judge Saint Clair was awarded the King County Bar Association's Outstanding Judge of the Year. In January 2009, Judge Saint Clair received the King County Martin Luther King Jr. County Humanitarian Award. In 2016, he delivered a [TED talk on restorative practices](#) based on his experience as a juvenile court judge. In 2018, he received the POCAAN (People of Color Against AIDS Network) award for judicial excellence. He received the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Loren Miller Bar Association for his contributions during his judicial career. In 2020, he was appointed by Governor Inslee to serve as Chair of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission and sits on the Washington State Legislature's Criminal Sentencing Task Force. He remains busy as Board Chair of the non-profit Building Changes, meditating, and consulting on organizational development based on restorative transformative practices and principles.

Read more about Judge Saint Clair's work at wesleysaintclair.com.

WHY CHOOSE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Panel 2 | January 25, 2024



Rev. Annette Currie Love
Panelist

Reverend Currie Love was born in New York City and raised by her grandmother in a warm, loving environment based on strong Christian principles. As a result she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age and participated in all phases of Christian ministries the church and community offered.

Reverend Currie Love graduated Hoke High School in 1974 and moved to Durham, North Carolina to further her education. Later she married and out of that union two sons were born and later four grandchildren. She retired in 2009 thinking she was going to take it easy, but all of that changed. She believes she works harder now volunteering than when she did working a 9-5. Among her many volunteer efforts and designations, Annette serves as Vigil Minister for the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham, the Board of Directors for Jubilee Home a therapeutic home for young men coming out of prison, and licensed to preach the Gospel, ordained in April 2019.

Reverend Currie Love is a volunteer restorative justice practitioner with the Restorative Justice Project which is an alternative program that keeps Durham youth from being incarcerated with referrals from the Misdemeanor Diversion in the District Attorney's office. She has also facilitated Felony Cases. Reverend Currie Love also leads an organization, Faith Based Service Network, which provides resources for the Durham community.

WHY CHOOSE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Panel 2 | January 25, 2024



Richard Cruz
Panelist

Richard Cruz is co-executive director of the [Ahimsa Collective](#), an organization he has been with since 2018.

He is native and his relations are through his mother (Georgia) Assiniboine Sioux, Nakota, and Arapaho. He also has an amn college education and has earned Certifications as a Substance Abuse Treatment Counselor & Communications Technician.

Cruz believes in celebrating our differences, new experiences and healing our communities and history. He lives in the Bay Area of California.

BRASS TACKS: IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION POLICY

Panel 3 | January 25, 2024



Meghan Nayak
Moderator

Meghan Nayak is the Associate Director of the Vera Institute of Justice's Reshaping Prosecution initiative, working with prosecutors across the country to end mass incarceration, address racial disparities, and make their offices more accountable.

She serves as staff lead for the Motion for Justice project, which provides technical assistance to prosecutors and community partners seeking to center racial equity in prosecutors' work.

Before joining Vera, Meghan was litigation counsel and a member of the research and policy team at Fair and Just Prosecution, working to support prosecutorial leaders committed to enhancing transparency and accountability. Meghan also served seven years as a staff attorney at the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender in Ocean County, New Jersey, in both juvenile and adult courts.

Meghan holds a BA in sociology and French literature and language from New York University, an MSc in criminology from the University of Pennsylvania, and a JD from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

BRASS TACKS: IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION POLICY

Panel 3 | January 25, 2024



Jonathan Scharrer
Panelist

Jonathan Scharrer is a Clinical Associate Professor and the Director of the Restorative Justice Project at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

He has extensive experience as a facilitator of restorative justice dialogues in sensitive and violent crimes and as a trainer in a variety of Restorative Justice practices. His work in this area has been featured on both 60 Minutes and CNN's The Redemption Project with Van Jones.

Scharrer is also active in examining criminal justice policy and legislation. He has helped design and implement multiple restorative justice diversion programs and provided guidance on senate and assembly bills on restorative justice in multiple states. He has also served as a member of the Advisory Council for the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice since 2017.

BRASS TACKS: IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION POLICY

Panel 3 | January 25, 2024



**Belinda Dulin
Panelist**

Belinda Dulin began her employment with The Dispute Resolution Center in 2003 as the Mediation Services Coordinator and assisted in launching the Small Claims Mediation Program and the Domestic Relations Motion Day Program. In 2006, she became the director of mediation services and was responsible for the development and administration of various civil and family mediation programs as well as facilitating workshops to community organizations.

Most recently, Dulin served as Adjunct Faculty at Wayne State University and was authored and published in the book "Colorizing Restorative Justice: Voicing Our Realities."

Dulin has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Master of Arts degree in Dispute Resolution, both from Wayne State University. Prior to becoming involved in community mediation, she worked in the corporate setting assisting with employment dispute, preserving the working relationships between co-workers and employees and management.

BRASS TACKS: IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION POLICY

Panel 3 | January 25, 2024



**Reese Frederickson
Panelist**

Reese Frederickson is County Attorney in Pine County, Minnesota. He was elected to office in 2014.

Frederickson is a graduate of the University of Minnesota-Duluth, has an M.B.A. from the University of New Mexico, a J.D. from the Mitchell Hamline School of Law, and is a former Air Force officer.

In 2016, Frederickson was named “Attorney of the Year” by Minnesota Lawyer magazine. He was also named “Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year” by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. In 2017, Frederickson was selected as a Policy Fellow at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Frederickson has also appeared on ABC’s 20/20 for his work in bringing an international fugitive to justice. Reese is a frequent lecturer and trainer in juvenile restorative justice topics and has founded successful Restorative Justice initiatives in a rural setting.

BRASS TACKS: IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION POLICY

Panel 3 | January 25, 2024



**Sherry Boston
Panelist**

Sherry Boston was first elected as District Attorney for the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit in 2016. In her capacity, DA Boston oversees the prosecution of felony offenses filed in the Superior Court of DeKalb County and supervises a staff of nearly 300 people including attorneys, investigators, paralegals, victim-witness advocates, and administrative professionals.

Boston recognizes the critical role her office plays in the criminal justice system and was the first district attorney in Georgia to mandate Implicit Bias training for all employees.

Prior to her role as District Attorney, Ms. Boston served as DeKalb County Solicitor-General. In addition to her elected positions, DA Boston has received numerous legal appointments and wide recognition for her innovative prevention/intervention initiatives and impassioned commitment to domestic violence awareness. In 2018, she received the Champion for Change Award from the Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence for her leadership in the DV arena, including the development of two signature community awareness campaigns. In December 2023, the Georgia Association of Black County Officials named DA Boston co-District Attorney of the Year. She was also honored last year with Emerge Georgia's Community Champion Award. In 2022, the National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA) honored DA Boston with the President's Award of Excellence, which is presented each year to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in service and commitment to furthering the overall goals and objectives of the NBPA; advancement in education, recruitment, retention and promotion of African American prosecutors; perpetuating the history of the profession and the memory of its members.

BRASS TACKS: IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION POLICY

Panel 3 | January 25, 2024



Dalia Racine
Panelist

Dalia Racine is the Douglas County District Attorney. She was elected in 2020 and she is the first woman and first person of color to serve in this role in her community. She has lived in Douglas County for over 16 years with her husband, a Douglas County educator, and their 3 children.

She brings almost 20 years of prosecutorial experience to serve our community. She has specialized in homicides, crimes against women and children, and human trafficking. Dalia also served as an Attorney Advisor with AEquitas, where she provided training and technical assistance around gender-based violence investigations and prosecutions to prosecutors, law enforcement, and allied professionals across the country and internationally.

Racine has championed the responsibility of elected prosecutors to keep their communities safe by implementing innovative practices and policies that reduce the number of repeat offenders who cause harm and diverting them out of the criminal justice system by connecting to resources that bring individual and community healing.

BRASS TACKS: IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION POLICY

Panel 3 | January 25, 2024



Cymone Fuller
Panelist

Cymone Fuller is Senior Director of the Restorative Justice Project at Equal Justice USA.

Fuller is a bridge builder committed to building across differences and supporting people in their learning about restorative justice while reducing their belief in and reliance on punitive/carceral systems. She began her career as an organizer building and leading a campaign to address the school-to-prison pipeline in her home state of Minnesota. She went on to spend many years focused on systemic reforms in the youth criminal legal system at the Vera Institute of Justice in New York and Columbia University's Justice Lab. Before joining EJUSA in 2023, she worked as the director of Impact Justice's Restorative Justice Project. She also previously worked at the Vera Institute of Justice on the End Girls' Incarceration.

Fuller holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and social justice from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in public administration from New York University's Wagner School of Public Service.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: GETTING STARTED

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Erica Washington
Facilitator

Erica Washington has studied the American punishment system for more than a decade, with an interest in transformative models for addressing harm.

Prior to joining [Equal Justice USA](#) in 2023, Washington worked as a senior program associate for Impact Justice's Restorative Justice Project. Before that, she spent almost three years with the Center for Death Penalty Litigation defending people on death row in the American South and working to challenge the racialized dehumanization that sustains the capital punishment apparatus. Simultaneously, Erica helped to build and lead a restorative justice criminal diversion program in Durham, North Carolina.

Washington received her J.D. from New York University School of Law and a B.A. from the University of Virginia in political philosophy, public policy, and law; as well as African and African American studies.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION GETTING STARTED

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Travis Claybrooks
Facilitator

Travis Claybrooks is the founder and CEO of Raphah Institute. Raphah Institute is building a cradle-to-homeownership pipeline to replace the cradle-to-prison pipeline. Through partnerships and programming, Raphah helps marginalized community members access the housing, healthcare, social support, education, and economic resources they need to heal and thrive.

Claybrooks completed his Master of Divinity at Liberty University and is a doctoral candidate in Strategic Leadership there. He has worked as a police officer in Nashville, TN, served in the US Army, and ministered as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. Travis is an active community volunteer. He holds membership on the First Horizon Bank Community Advisory Board, the Partners in Care Stakeholder Committee, the Nashville Group Violence Intervention Advisory Board, the Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment Steering Committee, Adverse Childhood Experiences Nashville Leadership Committee, the Nashville Child and Youth Collaborative, and the Nashville Health Equity Coalition. He is a restorative justice practitioner and trainer. Travis previously served as a Restorative Justice Working Group member at the United States Department of Justice.

He is launching an expansion of Raphah Institute's Restorative Justice Diversion Initiative in partnership with the Memphis/Shelby County DA, Juvenile Court, Public Defender, and community organizations. Raphah is also piloting a community investment project in early childhood education in HUD housing communities in Nashville. Travis enjoys playing video games and weekend outings with his family. He is a North Nashville native residing in White House, Tennessee.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: STAKEHOLDER BUY-IN

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Debra Pennington-Davis
Facilitator

Debra Pennington Davis coordinates Six Rivers' Restorative Justice Grant Program, which is funded through the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

Currently, Pennington and the Six Rivers team are working with community partners to build a survivor-centered alternative that is effective, is research-supported, and improves the lives of those impacted by acts of harm.

Prior to her work in restorative justice and mediation, Pennington worked as a writer and teacher, with experience in both public school and university settings. She earned her MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Alaska Anchorage and her BA in English from the University of Puget Sound. Debra received her Basic Mediation Training in spring 2020.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: STAKEHOLDER BUY-IN

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Reese Frederickson
Facilitator

Reese Frederickson is County Attorney in Pine County, Minnesota. He was elected to office in 2014.

Frederickson is a graduate of the University of Minnesota-Duluth, has an M.B.A. from the University of New Mexico, a J.D. from the Mitchell Hamline School of Law, and is a former Air Force officer.

In 2016, Frederickson was named “Attorney of the Year” by Minnesota Lawyer magazine. He was also named “Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year” by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. In 2017, Frederickson was selected as a Policy Fellow at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Frederickson has also appeared on ABC’s 20/20 for his work in bringing an international fugitive to justice. Reese is a frequent lecturer and trainer in juvenile restorative justice topics and has founded successful Restorative Justice initiatives in a rural setting.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: STAKEHOLDER BUY-IN

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Terry Fawcett
Facilitator

Terry Fawcett is the Probation Director for Pine County, Minnesota. He has been a restorative justice practitioner for over 25 years, having been trained by both Dr. Mark Umbreit and Ted Lewis.

He was one of the first people in the country to be trained in Domestic Violence Surrogate (Safe) Dialogue, having done so in Hillsboro, Oregon in 2004.

Fawcett and Pine County Attorney Reese Frederickson co-founded the C-5 program in Pine County and co-led an effort to transform the juvenile justice system in Pine County. Their work was recognized with the Capstone of the Year Award in 2018 by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: CHALLENGES, ROADBLOCKS, LESSONS LEARNED

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Maria V. D'Addieco
Facilitator

Maria V. D'Addieco is a Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer at U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services in the District of Massachusetts. In addition to being a probation officer with 15 years of experience in community supervision, federal criminal proceedings, and specifically federal presentence investigations, she developed and oversees the District's Restorative Justice program, which was the first of its kind in the federal system. As a result of the success of the program, other Districts are exploring or have created similar programs.

She was previously employed at the Department of Children and Families in Massachusetts, where she held positions as an Investigator, Family Circle and Group Conferencing Coordinator, and Supervisor. Ms. D'Addieco is an experienced facilitator and program developer and has 19+ years of experience working with Circle and restorative practices in various settings including: in community and family settings; with incarcerated populations; within government systems; and throughout criminal proceedings. She served as a faculty mentor for Suffolk University's, Center of Restorative Justice, Professional Certificate Program in Restorative Justice Practice. Her practice is steeped in indigenous teachings to which she credits the breadth of work she has fostered. She also has a keen clinical background having been an LICSW providing individual and family therapy in both private practice and community health care settings.

D'Addieco has an undergraduate degree from St. Anselm College, where she focused Politics, Latin American Studies, and International Relations and a Master of Social Work from Simmons College. She is an engaging and passionate presenter and has been a guest faculty member at and presented for numerous events including the Federal Judicial Center's National Magistrate Judge's Conferences and District Judge's Conferences, the FJC & the Petrie-Flom Center at Harvard Law School's Pretrial Justice Workshop, and at an International Institute for Restorative Practices World Conference.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: CHALLENGES, ROADBLOCKS, LESSONS LEARNED

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Rev. Grace Woodward
Facilitator

Rev. Grace Woodward works at the intersection of faith and criminal legal system reform.

From Arlington, Virginia, Rev. Woodward is currently working in the Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney's Office running the Heart of Safety restorative justice program and implementing creative alternatives to incarceration. She is a graduate of Davidson College and Yale Divinity School, and is studying part-time for her J.D. at George Mason University.

Before starting law school, Rev. Grace served in both prison and hospital chaplaincy settings, and interned at Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, Connecticut. She was ordained by the Presbytery of Southern New England to her hospital chaplaincy work in October 2021 and currently lives at Georgetown University as a Chaplain-in-Residence. Rev. Grace believes strongly in the power of storytelling and is an outspoken advocate for criminal-legal system reform. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and baking, exploring art galleries, and reading almost anything that captures her attention. Her weekly reflections are posted at revgrace.org.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: CHALLENGES, ROADBLOCKS, LESSONS LEARNED

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Rami El Gharib
Facilitator

Rami El Gharib is the Juvenile Justice Program Manager at the King County Executive Office. Prior to his current role, Rami established Georgia's first restorative justice program taking referrals of felony cases involving adults, or youth who are tried as adults. The program, Restorative Justice Georgia, partners with local District Attorney offices in the Metro Atlanta area. Rami has also facilitated juvenile violent crime Restorative Conferences and Victim Offender Dialogues in Colorado and has supported schools in implementing school-wide restorative practices.

Rami is also the founder of the [Restorative Rainbow Alliance](#), a non-profit that aims to introduce a LGBTQ+ lens into the field of Restorative Justice.

Originally from Lebanon, Rami received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from the American University of Beirut in 2017, and his masters degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from the University of New Haven in 2020.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: EQUITABLE PROGRAM DESIGN

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Jonathan Scharrer
Facilitator

Jonathan Scharrer is a Clinical Associate Professor and the Director of the Restorative Justice Project at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

He has extensive experience as a facilitator of restorative justice dialogues in sensitive and violent crimes and as a trainer in a variety of Restorative Justice practices. His work in this area has been featured on both 60 Minutes and CNN's The Redemption Project with Van Jones.

Scharrer is also active in examining criminal justice policy and legislation. He has helped design and implement multiple restorative justice diversion programs and provided guidance on senate and assembly bills on restorative justice in multiple states. He has also served as a member of the Advisory Council for the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice since 2017.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: EQUITABLE PROGRAM DESIGN

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Jasmyn Elise Story
Facilitator

Jasmyn Elise Story is an international Restorative Justice Facilitator, Doula, and the founder of Honeycomb Justice and Freedom Farm Azul. Formally the first Deputy Director of Social Justice & Racial Equity for the Office of the Mayor of Birmingham, Honeycomb Justice's reach extends to movement spaces, notable institutions, and community figures. Jasmyn has been recognized as a keynote speaker for prominent events such as the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice and the European Forum on Restorative Justice. In addition to their leadership roles, Jasmyn served as the Conflict Transformation Strategic Advisor at the Sierra Club (national), honing skills in stakeholder coordination, project management, and consensus-building

Named one of Vice's 31 People Making History by Creating a Better Future, they are a dedicated human rights activist with a decade of experience working in the voluntary sector. As the former Deputy Director of Social Justice & Racial Equity for the Office of the Mayor of Birmingham, Jasmyn co-led the launch of the State of Alabama's first government sustained Women's Initiative. This decentralized movement aims to interrupt the cycles of harm plaguing Birmingham's women, children, trans, and non-binary folk.

After completion of their M.A. in Human Rights at the University College London, they are currently completing their Ph.D. as a third-generation Tuskegee University student.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: COLLECTING DATA + SECURING RESOURCES

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Belinda Dulin
Facilitator

Belinda Dulin began her employment with The Dispute Resolution Center 2003 as the Mediation Services Coordinator and assisted in launching the Small Claims Mediation Program and the Domestic Relations Motion Day Program. In 2006, she became the director of mediation services and was responsible for the development and administration of various civil and family mediation programs as well as facilitating workshops to community organizations.

Most recently, Dulin served as Adjunct Faculty at Wayne State University and was authored and published in the book "Colorizing Restorative Justice: Voicing Our Realities."

Dulin has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Master of Arts degree in Dispute Resolution, both from Wayne State University. Prior to becoming involved in community mediation, she worked in the corporate setting assisting with employment dispute, preserving the working relationships between co-workers and employees and management.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: COLLECTING DATA + SECURING RESOURCES

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Kara Beckman
Facilitator

Kara Beckman is an applied researcher at the University of Minnesota's Healthy Youth Development Prevention Research Center.

Beckman partners with school- and community-based restorative practitioners to develop meaningful approaches to learning about restorative justice implementation, effectiveness, and transformational potential.

Beckman is a mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, friend, life-long learner and listener. When able, she fills her soul by being near water or in forests, growing and cooking good food, sharing time with family and friends or attending Lynx games.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: COLLECTING DATA + SECURING RESOURCES

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Andrew Taylor
Facilitator

Andrew Taylor is a senior research associate with Vera's Reshaping Prosecution initiative. He specializes in using contemporary approaches in data science to extract and integrate large quantities of administrative data from multiple sources to enumerate racial disparities in the criminal legal system and track reforms aiming to reduce these disparities and combat mass incarceration.

Before joining Vera in 2018, Andrew worked in public health, focusing on health equity in chronic disease and health economic analysis.

Andrew holds a BA in political economy from The Evergreen State College and an MPA in public policy analysis and evaluation from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: COLLECTING DATA + SECURING RESOURCES

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Erin Campbell
Facilitator

Erin Campbell is co-director of Central Virginia Community Justice (CVCJ). Erin has spent most of her life as a mentor, primarily in carpentry coaching, transformational nature connection experiences, and survival skills instruction. After completing a graduate degree in Conflict Transformation at Eastern Mennonite University, she has supported various group facilitation processes around important and often contentious issues.

Campbell sees communication, empathy and accountability as powerful, learnable skills that she seeks in her own life as well as in CVCJ work. She lives in a tiny house she built herself, and she loves mountain biking and adventuring with her eight nieces and nephews.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: STATE-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Tristen Edwards
Facilitator

Tristen Edwards is an attorney at Metropolitan Public Defender, where she represents individuals charged with major felony crimes and works on policy issues related to promoting the use of restorative justice as an alternative to prosecution.

Edwards is a Coordinating Committee Member of the Restorative Justice Coalition of Oregon and leads the coalition's legislative advocacy efforts. She also serves on Governor Kotek's Racial Justice Council's Criminal Justice Reform Committee and chairs the Council's Subcommittee on the Department of Corrections.

She has a strong commitment to diversity and is the founder and chair of the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Tristen has been recognized for her work amplifying the voices of marginalized people and promoting effective and compassionate responses to harm by the Oregon New Lawyers Division, the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association, and Oregon Women Lawyers.

IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS DIVERSION: STATE-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Liz Porter-Merrill
Facilitator

Liz Porter-Merrill has served as the public defender representative on the [Colorado Restorative Justice Council](#) since 2015. She grew up in a rural town on Colorado's Western Slope, graduated as a double Buff from the University of Colorado undergrad and Colorado Law, and clerked for two Colorado state judges.

After ten years advocating for her incarcerated clients in the appellate courts, Porter-Merrill transitioned into a position focusing on restorative justice at the Colorado State Public Defender's Office. She supports public defenders, prosecutors, judges, victim advocates, and Restorative Justice practitioners navigate the intersection of restorative justice law, principles, and practices.

She aspires to cultivate a paradigm grounded in supportive accountability, healing, and transformation for all. She regularly facilitates high-impact dialogues (aka HR-VOD), community group conferences, as well as circle process for community-building, for racial justice learning, and to support people impacted by the criminal legal system – both harmed people and people responsible for harm. In her view, restorative and transformative justice offer a way forward to reckon with violence (interpersonal & structural) and oppression (racial, patriarchal, & beyond). She seeks to grow restorative practices and accountability in Colorado through The Circles Project, and in her personal life & while parenting her amazing adventure-loving, boundary-pushing daughter.

RESTORATIVE VICTIM ADVOCACY

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Jane Piper
Speaker

Jane Piper is a rape survivor from London, Ontario, Canada. While working as an actor, comic and personal assistant in Los Angeles in 2003, she was victim of a brutal assault and rape. Almost immediately, not wanting to be silent, Piper chose to speak out about what she had experienced. She discovered that few people spoke openly about the experience of rape and was determined to change that.

Piper began sharing her story: first with friends and then publicly. After nine years, the man that raped her was caught and in 2014 he pleaded guilty. Piper realized she needed to see this man as a human being and wanted to have a conversation with him but unfortunately the criminal justice system does not allow for this. This was the beginning of her journey into restorative justice. Restorative justice helped her to rebuild a life of wholeness by engaging in surrogate healing conversations. After discovering that the man who harmed her was not yet ready for accountability, Jane began a quest to find answers by speaking to others who have caused severe harm.

Piper now works remotely as a healing partner for the Ahimsa Collective in Oakland, California, assisting men incarcerated for violent crimes write apology letters to those they have harmed. She lives in London, Canada and is currently writing her book “Coming Out of the Fog”, a memoir exploring her 20-year healing journey. She shares her story publicly with diverse audiences from conferences to high schools to prison accountability groups. Read more about Jane and her work at: www.JanePiper.com

RESTORATIVE VICTIM ADVOCACY

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Trino Jimenez
Speaker

Trino Jimenez is a son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and man of deep faith. In 2015, he was given an amazing chance to write to the man who was responsible for taking his brother's life many years earlier. After two years of letter exchange, on March 16, 2017 — in the midst of his daughter's battle with cancer — he took a trip to Solano State Prison to participate in a VOD (Victim Offender Dialogue) a face-to-face meeting and a day of healing. In 2018, he returned to the prison in a neutral support of the responsible party in his parole hearing (he was given a 3 year denial). In 2019, another parole hearing took place and Trino was able to witness a transformed man be found suitable. In, 2020, after 34 years of incarceration, the responsible person was allowed to return to society.

This experience opened the door to participating in many other Restorative Justice programs, including sharing his story through "Insight Prison Project", "G.R.I.P. (Guiding Rage into Power), Re-Store Justice, Healing Dialogue and Action, Healing Hearts Restoring Hope, The Ahimsa Collective, Mend Collaborative and Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC). He has given support to the Letter Bank writing program through The Ahimsa Collective, to help incarcerated individuals write an apology letter. Jimenez has worked closely with Parole Justice Works in developing a Web page covering the victims section. He has also been invited to join the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Crime Victim Advisory Board and currently works as a VOD Facilitator for Mend Collaborative. He has been invited to share his story at the State Capitol to a Senator that lead to a Senate Bill (SB 678), He has been invited to speak to Law Students at UCLA and at USC on the subject of Restorative Justice and Trauma, shared his journey with State Legislators through Smart Justice. He has given support to Human Rights Watch and has been invited to speak at Conferences that covered subject matters of addressing harm.

Jimenez hopes to continue on this path of healing and hopes to share a space with the person who caused so much devastation and pain by joining him in sharing with those who are in need of healing and hope. It is a story of brokenness used to mend the broken. He lives in Whittier, California

RESTORATIVE VICTIM ADVOCACY

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Sandra Rodriguez
Facilitator

Sandra Rodriguez is director of the Healing Pathways Program at the [Ahimsa Collective](#).

Rodriguez was born and raised in California and is the daughter of parents who immigrated to the U.S. from Colombia. She has over a decade of experience in restorative justice that includes work in process facilitation, community organizing, training/technical assistance and program development.

Prior to joining the Ahimsa Collective, she spent over six years with the RJ Project (formerly at Impact Justice and now at Equal Justice USA), where she assisted community-based organizations around the country in the implementation of RJ diversion programs. From her current role at Ahimsa, she continues to function as a key partner on local and national initiatives focusing on RJ research, advocacy, policy development, and coalition building.

At the core of all her work is the desire for BIPOC communities to reclaim, increase and sustain their power to heal, to dismantle systems of oppression and to build life-giving ways of being, so that future generations see liberation not as a dream or a goal, but as a lived reality. Sandra lives near the Russian River in Northern California and finds joy and love everyday in her partner, two dogs, two cats and gecko.

RESTORATIVE VICTIM ADVOCACY

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Ashlee Sellars
Facilitator

Ashlee Sellars (she/her) is the Director of Restorative Justice Initiatives at Raphah Institute.

Currently, she is managing a diversion program out of Davidson County Juvenile Court, establishing an initiative in Memphis Juvenile Court, and partnering to create a diversion program in Davidson County Adult Court.

As a youth, Sellars caused harm and was incarcerated for over two decades. She lives by her truth that if she doesn't do something with the information from those two decades, then she wasted those years. Working with organizations, both locally and nationally, she now supports people who have been harmed in finding healing and defining their justice; while working with people who have harmed to understand impact and accountability. Ashlee is grateful to collaborate with groups such as The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth and FreeHearts.

RESTORATIVE VICTIM ADVOCACY

Workshop | January 26, 2024



Gretchen Casey
Facilitator

Gretchen Casey began her career as a victim advocate counselor in 1985.

As a first responder, crisis counselor, and an advocate and trainer on victim rights and services, she has listened to the needs of individuals and families who have experienced crisis, trauma, and recovery as a result of harm and conflict. As founder of the Amend Initiative, Casey meets with people and explains the purpose and opportunity that Restorative Justice offers. She does group training programs, educational events and to directly facilitate Restorative Justice meetings.

She has been involved as a board member on state and local committees that set policy, protocols and hold annual conferences. She has also written a screenplay, given a TEDx Talk, and facilitated a victim offender dialogue that was filmed for the 2019 CNN series "The Redemption Project."

Read Casey's study [A Survey of 500 Defendants About Restorative Justice](#).

RESTORATIVE VICTIM ADVOCACY

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Barbara L. Jones
Facilitator

Barbara L. Jones (she/her), a dedicated Detroit native, is a leading voice in social justice and violence prevention, working in higher education and in the local, regional and national community for over 17 years. Barbara currently serves as an educator at Wayne State University's in the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention and Education, Barbara's diverse roles include faculty instructor, conflict manager and gun violence prevention advocate. Previously, she directed the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute at Wayne State University in her role as the Community Dispute Resolution Specialist, in the Center of Peace and Conflict Studies at Wayne State University focusing on community engagement, social justice, conflict and dispute resolution, conflict transformation and restorative justice with youth.

In her dual roles as a restorative justice practitioner and co-survivor of violent crime, Barbara not only understands the criminal justice system's complexities but also champions the restorative approach as a catalyst for change. Her experiences weave a narrative that advocates for the empowerment of survivors and with persons who have caused harm and emphasizes the crucial role of restorative practitioners in reshaping the justice landscape within a diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging framework. Her academic journey includes a B.S. in Mass Communications from Rochester University, a M.A. in Dispute Resolution, and a graduate certificate in Peace and Security Studies from Wayne State University.

RESTORATIVE VICTIM ADVOCACY

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Karen Schousboe
Facilitator

Karen Schousboe is driven by a commitment to community building, collective trauma-healing, and truth-telling around historical harms. Before joining Equal Justice USA as a Senior Training Manager with the Restorative Justice Project in 2023, she was a program specialist for Impact Justice's Restorative Justice Project.

She has over eight years of experience in restorative justice and has been honored to design, build, and facilitate experiential trainings for community-based organization partners launching restorative justice diversion programs. Schousboe has also facilitated restorative justice dialogues, survivor support groups and convenings, and in-prison programs centered around healing with the Ahimsa Collective. She holds an M.A. in conflict analysis and transformation from the Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

RESTORATIVE VICTIM ADVOCACY

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Jenna Kress
Facilitator

Jenna Kress is committed to disrupting the harm of the criminal legal system, uplifting alternative community accountability processes, and fostering meaningful experiences and dialogues that promote transformative community building and healing.

Before joining the EJUSA team, Kress served as a Senior Program Associate for Impact Justice's Restorative Justice Project where she supported communities across the country in developing and launching their own restorative justice diversion programs. After receiving her bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Georgia and earning her master's degree in social work from the University of Washington, Kress worked at Community Works West In Oakland, CA, where she supported program development efforts and facilitated restorative justice diversion processes for serious incidents of harm.

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Martina Lutz Schneider
Facilitator

Martina Lutz Schneider was introduced to Restorative Justice by Dominic Barter in 2003 through her engagement with Nonviolent Communication. She is a devoted Restorative Justice advocate and has facilitated insight and accountability groups in California State prisons since 2011 and recently started the apology letter writing group PATH at a California prison supporting men in their accountability journey which includes writing an apology letter for the CDCR apology letter bank. She has facilitated “Victim Offender Dialogues” (VOD) post sentencing since 2015 and serves as the VOD Program director for the Ahimsa Collective.

She fiercely believes in our innate goodness and strong desire to be in a good relationship with one another. As our body knows to heal, so does our soul; Lutz Schneider sees her role in this world to create the conditions in which healing can take place and a sense of wholeness can be restored.

ASKING THE HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

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Ted Lewis
Lead Facilitator

Ted Lewis has been a consultant and trainer with the Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking at the University of Minnesota - Duluth since 2013.

Since 1996, he has done a variety of work in the fields of restorative justice and conflict resolution, including work as a practitioner, program manager, trainer, writer, director, teacher, and consultant. He has also taught the Restorative Justice course as an adjunct professor at UMD Duluth campus.

As a Communications Consultant, Ted's primary work for the center is to provide training for new programs. His specialty is to do Victim Offender Conferencing training for facilitators. He also assists with helping new programs with referral protocols and program management resources. Ted also provides center activities that include creating training and program management manuals for agencies that have contracted for services with the center, writing procedural protocols based on best-practices in the field, assisting with co-authorship projects taken on by the center, co-presenting at center-sponsored training, and writing content for the website.

Ted currently serves on the Executive Committee as Secretary for the NACRJ (National Association of Community and Restorative Justice). A top passion of his is to document and share stories of positive restorative dialogue processes.

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Erika Sasson
Lead Facilitator

Erika Sasson has spent the last twenty years creating opportunities for difficult conversations while reimagining how we relate to each other in the aftermath of harm. She is an attorney and practitioner who designs and facilitates restorative justice processes, whether in response to serious harm or to build positive group dynamics. She is a 2023 recipient of The David Prize for extraordinary New Yorkers.

Erika's work in restorative justice is focused on designing and implementing novel approaches to complex harm, including intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and homicide. She also consults on long-term projects with organizations who want to create restorative justice programming, or who need to navigate complex conversations in pursuit of a healthier workplace. Her work is anchored by her experiences learning directly from Native American peacemakers from across North America.

Over the last two decades, she has worked in and around many areas of the criminal and civil legal systems, with experience in litigation, racial disparities, conditions of confinement, family separation, and the creation of alternatives to incarceration for both misdemeanors and felonies. Outside of the legal system, Erika launched the first neighborhood peacemaking program in Red Hook, which was inspired by Navajo peacemaking practices. She also took restorative justice to New York's highest-suspending schools.

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Joe Platania
Facilitator

Joe Platania is the Commonwealth Attorney of Charlottesville, Virginia.

Platania graduated from Washington and Lee School of Law in 1998 and started his legal career at the Virginia Resource Center, where he represented Virginia inmates that had been sentenced to death. He came to Charlottesville in 1999 as one of the original attorneys at the then newly opened Charlottesville-Albemarle Public Defenders Office. Platania joined the Charlottesville Commonwealth Attorney's Office in 2003 and was elected Commonwealth's Attorney in 2017.

Platania was a cross-designated special assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia from 2008-17. In addition to his duties as Commonwealth's Attorney, Platania currently serves on the Board of Governors of the Virginia State Bar's Criminal Law Section, the Board of the Charlottesville Albemarle Drug Treatment Court and the Charlottesville-Albemarle Restorative Justice Advisory Committee.

He is a member of the Virginia State Bar's Disciplinary Board and previously served on the 7th District Disciplinary Committee. He is the director of the Prosecution Clinic at the University of Virginia School of law and is also a member of the Virginia Criminal Justice Conference, an organization that seeks to improve criminal justice in Virginia.

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Terry Fawcett
Facilitator

Terry Fawcett is the Probation Director for Pine County, Minnesota. He has been a restorative justice practitioner for over 25 years, having been trained by both Dr. Mark Umbreit and Ted Lewis.

He was one of the first people in the country to be trained in Domestic Violence Surrogate (Safe) Dialogue, having done so in Hillsboro, Oregon in 2004.

Fawcett and Pine County Attorney Reese Frederickson co-founded the C-5 program in Pine County and co-led an effort to transform the juvenile justice system in Pine County. Their work was recognized with the Capstone of the Year Award in 2018 by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

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Fred Van Liew
Facilitator

Following graduation from the Drake University Law School in '83, Fred Van Liew was an Assistant Iowa Attorney General, a felony prosecutor for the Polk County Attorney Office in Des Moines, the supervising housing litigator for Polk County Legal Aid, and a Clinical instructor at the Drake Law School during which time he maintained a criminal law practice. In 1991, Van Liew returned to the Polk County Attorney Office as the First Assistant and developed several restorative justice programs over the following 20 years.

Since retiring in 2010, Van Liew has held a variety of restorative justice positions utilizing restorative practices outside the criminal and juvenile justice systems. He presently has a private practice as Restorative Practice Associates and provides RJ services to the Polk County Attorney in Des Moines and the Cumberland County District Attorney in Portland, Maine, as well as to other institutions and individuals.

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Vivianne Guevara
Facilitator

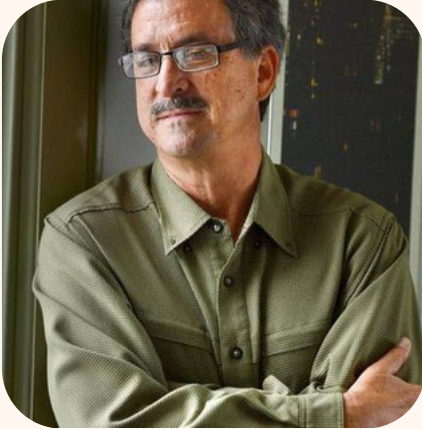
Vivianne Guevara is a private mitigation specialist who works with public defense teams in state and federal courts. She has been a restorative justice facilitator and circle keeper since 2014.

From 2012-2023, Vivianne was the Director of Client and Mitigation Services at the Federal Defenders of New York in the Eastern District. She has been working as a Defender for over 16 years. Prior to joining the Federal Defenders of New York, Vivianne was an Investigator and Social Worker at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia, where she supported litigation that challenged conditions in juvenile and adult jails and prisons in Georgia and Alabama, the provision of indigent defense in Georgia, and the proliferation of debtor's prisons in Georgia. She also worked with clients individually to reduce the impact of the collateral consequences that resulted from civil and criminal court involvement.

Vivianne began working in public defense as a social worker at the Bronx Defenders, where she worked with clients charged in domestic violence and mental health courts. While working towards her Master's Degree in Social Work, she was an Outreach Specialist at the Bowery Residents' Committee where she worked one-on-one with homeless individuals on the streets and in the subways of New York City. Vivianne holds a certificate in Restorative Justice and Restorative Circles and received training from Kay Pranis, Planning Change, and the International Institute of Restorative Practices. She is a graduate of New York University and Columbia University School of Social Work.

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Ken Rose
Facilitator

Ken Rose is an attorney and advocate. He spent more than 30 years defending people on death row and advocating against the death penalty.

After graduating from Boston University Law School, Rose headed to Jackson, Mississippi, where he opened a law firm and helped launch the the Mississippi Capital Defense Resource Center.

Rose became director of North Carolina's Center for Death Penalty Litigation in 1996, where he worked before transitioning to representing people on death row. In addition to his lawyering, Rose worked on legislation, including North Carolina's Racial Justice Act.

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Shannon Neal
Facilitator

Shannon Neal is an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Albemarle County, and was a Public Defender from 2014 to 2018. She has also worked in mental health support, at a local jail, and as an Assistant Campaign Manager for a local political campaign.

Shannon serves as a board member for a number of organizations in her community including Offender Aid and Restoration, Drug Treatment Court, Therapeutic Docket, and the Charlottesville Albemarle Evidence Based Decision Making Team.

Shannon has her Bachelors degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from Messiah College, and a Master's degree in Conflict Transformation and Restorative Justice from the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University. She graduated from UVA Law in 2014 and has been committed to developing diversion opportunities in our criminal legal system, especially diversion for Restorative Justice.

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Kelsie Sayers
Facilitator

Kelsie Sayers is the Director of Restorative Practices at the Center for Justice Innovation, overseeing the Center's restorative practice initiatives across a broad range of demonstration projects.

Sayers' work promotes individual, family, and community healing, and advances systemic change by bringing the restorative practices to children in schools and by creating non-traditional pathways to justice for individuals in the courts system. Prior to joining the Center, she worked as a public defender for the Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Practice, providing legal representation to indigent clients on misdemeanor and felony cases. Sayers is a graduate of Howard University with a BA in Political Science and a BA in Afro-American Studies. She received her Juris Doctorate from the New York University School of Law and Master of Social Work from the New York University Silver School of Social Work.

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**Vanesa Westley
Facilitator**

Vanessa Westley is a retired police officer of the Chicago Police Department after 30 years of service. Ms. Westley is a Community Engagement Strategist and restorative justice practitioner. She is a public participatory dialogue facilitator and trainer specializing in World Café, Pro Action Café and Open Space Technology processes. Currently she serves on the International World Café Stewardship Council

Westley is also a restorative justice practitioner and national trainer specializing in law enforcement restorative strategies and full school and community implementation of Restorative Justice practices. At the Chicago Police Department Ms. Westley co created and coordinated “Bridging the Divide” a restorative policing strategy to authentically engage the community of youth and emerging adults while assigned to the Office of Restorative Justice Strategies. The goals of the process include fostering positive youth leadership for community safety, and building the capacity of officers to practice restorative, trauma-informed policing. The process also invites the broader community to be part of the relationship building and understanding the impact of trauma, particularly upon youth and emerging adults, and the solutions that restorative justice and its practices can offer

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Michelle Day
Facilitator

A minister, attorney and certified mediator, with decades of experience in community building and conflict transformation, Michelle Day is dedicated to the healing of community. She co-founded Nehemiah Trinity Rising, a 501c3 corporation, which serves to educate, train, and implement restorative justice practices in all community settings. Through Nehemiah, Ms. Day participated in drafting the restorative justice implementation plan for Chicago Public Schools, and led the implementation of RJ in several schools, including York High School, (serving youth in Cook County Jail). She has facilitated the implementation of restorative justice education and experiential skills building for system impacted persons, who in turn provide re-entry assistance to others. Additionally, she has assisted communities in building wholistic peace building plans, specifically Alternatives to Incarceration in Roseland and the Austin Quality of Life Plan.

Her advocacy work includes the Coalition to End Money Bond which was instrumental in passing the historic Illinois Pre-Trial Fairness Act. She currently serves on the Governor's Commission Regarding Children of Incarcerated Parents.

She has served with various trauma informed, restorative justice and anti-violence committees and advocacy movements throughout the city. She has taught courses at universities including violence as a public health issue at the School of Public Health at University of Illinois, Chicago. She is a graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary (M.Div.), DePaul College of Law and Indiana University.

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Sheryl Wilson
Facilitator

Sheryl Wilson has been a practitioner, trainer and educator in restorative justice for more than 15 years and has had the honor of working with individuals from around the world in her practice. She holds both a Bachelor of Science degree in mediation and communication studies and a restorative justice-based Master of Liberal Studies degree from the University of Minnesota.

Beginning her restorative justice career as a trainer and research associate at the Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking in the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota, Sheryl developed and facilitated Victims, Offenders, Community, A Restorative Experience (VOCARE) dialogues in Minnesota correctional facilities. She also worked as a community mediator with the Victim Offender Conferencing program in Washington County, Minnesota.

In the summer of 2008, Sheryl coordinated a group of victim offender facilitators to serve as support people for witnesses who gave testimony to the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) during hearings for the United States diaspora, held at Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn.

Sheryl is working on various writing projects that explore the relationship between the restorative justice movement and racial reconciliation. She contributed a chapter to *Colorizing Restorative Justice*, a book about restorative justice practitioners of color and the challenges they face, published in June 2020. Sheryl has also served as the president of the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice.

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Regina Platt
Facilitator

Regina Platt, often called the "Stepologist," is a messenger of hope. She is a tenacious servant leader who empowers individuals and communities to take steps forward to obtain their desired outcomes. Regina serves as Restorative Justice and Mediation Coordinator within the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice, Inc. She is a Global Public Speaker, Published Author, and One on One Coaching and Community Advocate. She has been honored with numerous honors including being appointed World Civility Ambassador and an honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Humanities from United Graduate College and Seminary International.

RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CIRCLE

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Brenneis Nesbitt
Circle Keeper

Brenneis Nesbitt is a Senior Restorative Justice Facilitator for the Family Healing Project, a program of the Center for Court Innovation which supports individuals navigating the challenges of reentry after incarceration.

Nesbitt holds restorative justice circles to provide space for returning citizens to voice and process how they have been affected so that they can collectively heal from the trauma of incarceration. Brenneis is also a Mentor at Children's Village, where he works with youths ages 16-24, a majority of which are on probation. As a mentor, Brenneis facilitates workshops, connects participants to employment and community resources, and assists them with learning how to become self-advocates. He also uses restorative justice circles to address group conflict.

Nesbitt is a current JD candidate at CUNY School of Law and plans to become a criminal defense attorney for indigent New Yorkers. Throughout his career he hopes to continue empowering underserved communities, marginalized groups and future leaders to combat institutional inequality and be fierce advocates for criminal justice reform.

RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CIRCLE

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Michael Nelson
Circle Keeper

Michael Nelson serves as the Executive Director of Kid C.A.T., a non-profit aimed at bridging the gap between harm and healing, while supporting the incarcerated youth offender population - those serving (adult) life sentences for crimes they committed during their youth.

During his 20-plus years of incarceration, Michael was introduced to Restorative Justice, becoming a facilitator and trainer in circle keeping. Since his release from prison in 2018, Michael has continued to facilitate discussions on Restorative Justice and circle keeping with various communities of folks - including law enforcement, incarcerated individuals, college students, youths, and families. His commitment to contributing to the healing around him is rooted in his sense of obligation, as someone who is responsible for committing harm in the world.

Utilizing a restorative approach along his healing journey, as well as with being in circle, Michael has found that the clearest path to living in his truth has been through accountability, vulnerability, curiosity, and by holding space for radical acceptance. Through communal story sharing, Michael was introduced to the truth of our interconnectedness; and that in our Oneness is where we find collective wisdom. Today, he continues to spread the experience of being in circle, as was gifted to him inside prison. He has been featured in films such as: *The Mask You Live In*, *The Prison Within* and a short, *The Underdogs*. When he's not sitting in a circle with his incarcerated community, you can find him with his dog, Morgan, enjoying time at one of the many beaches on the Central Coast of California.

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Troy Williams
Circle Keeper

Troy Williams is a Youth Program Development Specialist and Facilitator Trainer for the Victim-Offender Education Group with the Insight Prison Project. He is a member of the Advisory Council for the Alameda County Chief of Probation. He is also founder of 4north22, a media production and consulting company that produces transformative stories to produce social change and promote restorative justice.

Williams is the founding Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the San Quentin Prison Report (SQPR), an award-winning radio and video production program operated inside the prison. Prior to his release from San Quentin, Williams spent six years facilitating curriculum for the Victim-Offender Education Group and other restorative justice programs. Troy's experience includes: Co-founder of Freedman Capital, a program designed to teach prisoners in San Quentin the principles of personal finance, and to prepare them for parole and retirement; Founder of Project Emerge, a 16-week financial empowerment and emotional literacy program designed for youth with the Insight Prison Project, among others. He was the recipient of the Excellence in Journalism Award from the Society of Professional Journalists in 2014. He is also the author, producer and director of the Troy Williams Journal, Media Fellow with the Game Changers project, a columnist for the Oakland Post newspaper and certified paralegal.

In 2018, Troy was awarded a Soros Fellowship to create a nationwide media platform for the formerly incarcerated.

RESTORATIVE CIRCLE

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Joel Friesz
Circle Keeper

Joel Friesz is executive director for the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice. He was introduced to the field of restorative justice in 2005 and for 13 years led a team of restorative justice facilitators and juvenile justice professionals at a statewide non-profit agency in North Dakota. During those years, Joel and his team worked extensively with communities across North Dakota to implement restorative practices into K-12 education, the juvenile justice system, and adult corrections. Joel provides training and coaching on implicit bias, bullying prevention, adverse childhood experiences, LGBTQ+ advocacy, and sexual assault and domestic violence prevention.

Friesz is a nationally certified Green Dot Bystander Intervention Community Instructor and served for three years as a Facilitator of Sexual Assault Prevention and Advocacy for North Dakota State University. For the past 10 years Joel has been involved with efforts to address disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in North Dakota justice systems and completed the Reducing Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program at Georgetown University in 2016. Joel serves on several local and state committees including the North Dakota Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group, and became an Associate member of Sisters of the Presentation in 2020. Joel received his bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University (Fargo, ND) and holds a master's degree in Strategic Leadership from University of Mary (Bismarck, ND). A lifelong North Dakotan, Friesz has resided in Fargo for over 25 years.