



RETHINKING THE AMERICAN WAY OF PUNISHMENT

Covering the Emerging Debate

**A criminal justice webinar series for news reporters, editors and
producers**

DRAFT AGENDA v17

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 and THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

ALL TIMES EASTERN

**note: speakers/times subject to change*

WEBINAR 1

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

1:00 p.m.-1:10 p.m.

WELCOME

1:10 p.m.-1:40 p.m.

SESSION 1-KEYNOTE

Martha Minow

Former Dean, Harvard Law School

Author, "Vengeance and Forgiveness"

1:40 p.m.-2:40 p.m.

SESSION 2 HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Our punishment paradigm: American's prison population has grown from about 200,000 in 1970 to 2,000,000 today. How did this happen? What drives today's "era of excessive punishment"? An examination of policy and the law.

SPEAKERS

Frank Baumgartner

Richardson Distinguished Professor, Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Christine Montross

Author, "The Madness of Incarceration"

Jeremy Travis

Vice President for Criminal Justice
Arnold Ventures

MODERATOR

Maurice Possley

Center on Media, Crime and Justice

2:40 p.m.-2:50 p.m.

BREAK

2:50 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

SESSION 3 CHANGING THE FRAMEWORK

Imagining a different system of justice and punishment. What should we want to achieve with punishment? Balancing public safety with rehabilitation. Rethinking front-end decisions on sentencing, the trial penalty, mandatory life sentences, and violent crimes.

SPEAKERS

The Hon. Angel Harris

Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge,
New Orleans

Erin Kelly

Department of Philosophy, Tufts University

Author, “The Limits of Blame: Rethinking Punishment and
Responsibility”

Sydney McKinney

Executive Director

National Black Women’s Justice Institute

Stephanie Morales

District Attorney, Portsmouth West Virginia

MODERATOR

Stephen Handelman

4:00 p.m.-4:10 p.m.

BREAK

4:10 p.m.-5:15 p.m.

SESSION 4 PUNISHMENT AND POLITICS

*Can change occur? A look at the emerging debate and the
backlash. What are the economic and political challenges in a
polarized, tough-on-crime environment?*

SPEAKERS

Charles Allen

Council Member Ward 6

District of Columbia

Michael Romano

Founder, Three Strikes and Justice Advocacy Project

Stanford Law School

Steven Wasserman

President

National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys

MODERATOR

Stephen Handelman

Director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice

WEBINAR 2

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

1:00 p.m.-1:05 p.m.

WELCOME

1:05 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

SESSION 5 A FUTURE WITHOUT MASS INCARCERATION?

What are some of the options for reducing prison populations? Should aging prisoners be released? What's next after Second Chance?

SPEAKERS

The Hon. Nancy Gertner

Former U.S. District Judge, Massachusetts
Harvard Law School

Renaldo Hudson

Education Director, Illinois Prison Project
Former Death Row inmate

Lee Kovarsky

Bryant Smith Chair in Law
University of Texas at Austin
Author, "Prosecutor Mercy"

Larry Krasner

District Attorney
Philadelphia County

MODERATOR

TBA

2:15 p.m.-2:20 p.m.

BREAK

2:20 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

SESSION 6 HUMAN RIGHTS BEHIND BARS

What are the options and challenges of "humane" punishment? Does altering the prison environment—from living quarters to food and technology access—matter?

SPEAKERS

Amy Fettig

Executive Director
The Sentencing Project

Terah Lawyer-Harper

Program Manager, "Homecoming Project"
Impact Justice

Vincent Schiraldi

Commissioner
New York City Department of Correction

MODERATOR**Maurice Possley**

3:30 p.m.-3:35 p.m.

BREAK

3:35 p.m.-4:40 p.m.

SESSION 7 LESSONS FROM ELSEWHERE

What can other nations teach us about punishment, incarceration and release?

SPEAKERS**Baz Dreisinger**

Founder, Incarceration Nations Network
Founding Academic Director, Prison-to-College Pipeline
John Jay College

Lila Kazemian

Department of Sociology
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Author, "Positive Growth and Redemption in Prison: Finding Light Behind Bars and Beyond"

MODERATOR**Maurice Possley**

4:40 p.m.-4:50 p.m.

BREAK

4:50 p.m.-5:50 p.m.

SESSION 8 COVERING THE DEBATE

An examination of the role of the press. The media share some of the blame for the incarceration explosion; can it shape a dialogue of change and reform? Ten stories/TRENDS worth covering.

SPEAKER**Danielle Sered**

Director,
Common justice

FACILITATORS

Stephen Handelman and Maurice Possley