RETHINKING
THE AMERICAN WAY OF
PUNISHMENT

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

AGENDA

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: America’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
Executive Vice President of 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, Virginia

MODERATOR

Stephen Handelman
Center on Media, Crime and Justice

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
Stephen Handelman  
Director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice

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  
Center on Media, Crime and Justice

---

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

**MODERATOR**  
Stephen Handelman  
Director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice

---

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