



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Robina Institute  
of Criminal Law  
and Criminal Justice  
2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# Reversing Mass Punishment in America

Friday, December 8, 2017 | McNamara Alumni Center

**With keynote address by:**

Professor James Forman, Jr., author of  
*Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment  
in Black America*

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#### Continuing Legal Education

Approval of 4.25 Standard CLE and 2 Elimination of  
Bias CLE credits is pending. Event Code: 250328.

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# Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice

**2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

## **Reversing Mass Punishment in America**

**Friday, December 8, 2017**

**McNamara Alumni Center  
University of Minnesota  
200 SE Oak St #100  
Minneapolis, MN 55414**

### ***Conference Reception***

Please join us for a post-conference reception and book-signing immediately following the conference in Memorial Hall, McNamara Alumni Center.

### ***Continuing Legal Education***

Approval of 4.25 Standard CLE and 2 Elimination of Bias CLE credits is pending. Event Code: 250328.

### ***Photography and Videography***

This conference will be photographed and recorded for online viewing.

### ***Conference Survey***

Watch your email for a conference survey. We're grateful for your feedback.

### ***Support the Robina Institute***

By hosting events like the Annual Conference, the Robina Institute seeks to engage audiences and the public in the work that we are doing to create transformative change in sentencing law and correctional policies and practices. To continue this work, we need your support. Please consider giving to the Robina Institute today. Your donation is 100% tax-deductible. We have included a donation envelope in this program for your convenience. If you choose to donate today, please enclose a check made payable to "The University of Minnesota" or your credit card information, and drop your sealed envelope off at the conference registration table. Or, give online: [robinainstitute.umn.edu/giving](http://robinainstitute.umn.edu/giving).

Thank you.

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## Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice 2017 Annual Conference

# *Reversing Mass Punishment in America*

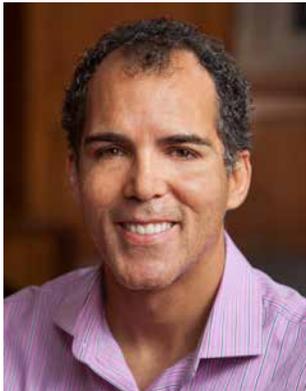
Thank you for joining us for the Robina Institute's 2017 Annual Conference, "**Reversing Mass Punishment in America**," with keynote speaker Professor James Forman, Jr. (Yale Law School), author of *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*, in Memorial Hall at the McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota.

### Conference Description

While the United States is the undisputed leader of incarceration rates worldwide, little attention has been paid to other forms of punishment in which America has become a leader including community supervision, revocations from supervision to prison, economic penalties, and collateral consequences of conviction. For example, the Robina Institute's comparative research of probation rates between American states and European countries finds that, on average, U.S. probation rates are as much as five times higher than that of Europe. Thus, the issue in America is one of mass punishment, not just mass incarceration.

Since 2011, the Robina Institute has conducted original research in sentencing law and policy that examines this trend toward mass punishment. Our work has focused on studying probation and parole practices and revocations across the United States— in both rural and urban communities; researching and publishing information about the impacts of criminal history enhancements; and providing a unique, online resource that gives an in-depth look at state and federal sentencing guidelines systems. This conference will take a closer look at some of the issues that contribute to mass punishment and discuss ways in which we can reverse this alarming trend and also reduce racial disproportionality.

### Keynote Speaker



**Professor James Forman Jr.** is a Professor of Law at Yale Law School and author of the critically-acclaimed new book, *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*. He is a graduate of Atlanta's Roosevelt High School, Brown University, and Yale Law School, and was a law clerk for Judge William Norris of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the United States Supreme Court. See speaker biographies in the back of this program for a detailed biography of James Forman, Jr.

*Locking Up Our Own* will be available for purchase over the lunch break at the conference. Professor Foreman will be available to sign his book immediately following the conference from 4:45-5:15 p.m.

### About the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice

The Robina Institute is a mission-driven organization dedicated to engaging in original, interdisciplinary education, research, and policy analysis to achieve transformative change in sentencing and correctional policies and practices.

The Robina Institute was funded from 2011 through 2018 by a generous grant from the Robina Foundation. Created by James H. Binger (UMN Law, '41), one of the Robina Foundation's primary missions is to generate transformative ideas and promising approaches to addressing critical social issues.

Learn More:

[www.robinainstitute.umn.edu](http://www.robinainstitute.umn.edu)

## ***Reversing Mass Punishment in America***

Memorial Hall, McNamara Alumni Center

- 8:00 a.m.                    **Check-In and Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m.                    **Welcome**  
**The Honorable Kathleen Blatz (former Chief Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court)**
- 9:05 a.m.                    **Conference Introduction**  
**Professor Richard S. Frase (University of Minnesota Law School)**
- 9:15-10:05 a.m.           **Keynote Address**  
***Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America***  
**Professor James Forman, Jr. (Yale Law School)**

Marion Barry, Maxine Waters, Eric Holder, and Johnnie Cochran are not names you would associate with the staggering incarceration rates plaguing black and minority communities across the country. Yet, as James Forman, Jr. writes in his critically-acclaimed new book, *Locking Up Our Own*, it's undeniable that the urgency and good-intentioned politics of black leaders in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, as they sought to reduce crime and curb out-of-control drug addiction, has unspooled now, decades later, into a devastating tally of young men whose lives have been lost to the penal system. Weaving data and history with human stories, Forman's book builds on his work as a public defender in Washington, D.C., a founder of a charter school for incarcerated teens, and a law professor.

This keynote address—and Professor Forman's book—will challenge the conference audience to think about ways they can contribute to change in our current criminal justice system.

- 10:05-10:15 a.m.           **Break**
- 10:15-11:15 a.m.           **Plenary: American Exceptionalism in Mass Punishment**  
**Professor Kevin R. Reitz (University of Minnesota Law School)**

In the mid- and late twentieth century, the United States diverged markedly from other Western nations first in its high rates of serious violent crime and soon after in the severity of its criminal punishments. This has left a legacy of American exceptionalism in crime and punishment for the new century. It is well known that the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world with a nationwide rate seven times the Western European average. Less well known, U.S. probation and parole supervision rates now stand at 5-to-10 times the European average. Moreover, economic sanctions have expanded in many American jurisdictions, and are increasingly used as revenue sources for local governments, courts, and criminal justice agencies. These uses of economic penalties are not replicated in other advanced democracies. Finally, all states and the federal government have adopted hundreds of civil disabilities that are applied to ex-offenders, called "collateral consequences of conviction." Once again, the breadth and weight of these civil measures appear to be unique to America.

Since the early 2000s, the term "mass incarceration" has gained wide circulation in the U.S. It is more realistic to see "mass punishment" as a uniquely American phenomenon.

## ***Reversing Mass Punishment in America***

Memorial Hall, McNamara Alumni Center

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **Plenary: Racial Disproportionality in Punishment**

- **Professor Richard S. Frase (University of Minnesota Law School)**
- **Hon. Pamela Alexander (4th Judicial District, Hennepin County, MN)**
- **Dr. Ashley Nellis (The Sentencing Project)**

African American and Native American offenders are incarcerated at much higher rates than white offenders. Racial disproportionality is evident at all stages of criminal justice processing, beginning with arrest, and in many systems it grows worse at each successive stage of processing. One major contributor to disparity increases at the point of sentencing is penalty enhancement based on the offender's prior conviction record; since African American and Native American offenders tend to have higher criminal history scores, these sentence enhancements have a very substantial disparate impact, greatly contributing to the problem of disproportionate minority confinement. Some criminal laws also have disparate impacts on minority offenders. This session will discuss research on racial disparity and disparate impacts in criminal justice, and examine ways to mitigate these impacts.

12:15-1:15 p.m.

### **Lunch**

Please enjoy a buffet lunch in Memorial Hall.

Professor Forman's and Professor Reitz's books will be for sale over lunch.

1:15-2:15 p.m.

### **Break-Out Session 1**

#### **Sentencing Guidelines Systems: Leading the Way with the Minnesota Model**

(Ski-U-Mah Conference Room)

- **Kelly Mitchell (University of Minnesota Law School)**
- **Bennet Wright (Alabama Sentencing Commission)**
- **Scott Schultz (Kansas Sentencing Guidelines Commission)**

Minnesota was the first state to enact sentencing guidelines in 1980. Since then, multiple states, the federal government, and Washington, D.C. have followed suit. But just as no state or jurisdiction is the same, no two sets of the sentencing guidelines are the same. Some are mandatory, requiring adherence, whereas others are advisory, representing a mere starting point for the court. Some are enforced by appeal; others are not. And the rules that make up the core of sentencing guidelines – e.g., how the criminal history score is calculated, availability of departures, whether consecutive sentencing is permitted – vary substantially from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. This session will cover some of the major features of sentencing guidelines systems in the U.S. and will demonstrate that although Minnesota's system continues to be the model to be emulated, the model could be improved even further.

## ***Reversing Mass Punishment in America***

Memorial Hall, McNamara Alumni Center

### **Public Attitudes to Sentencing and Mass Imprisonment**

(Johnson Great Hall)

- **Professor Julian Roberts (Oxford University)**
- **Professor Loretta Stalans (Loyola University)**

Public opinion has been one of the drivers of mass imprisonment in the US, and of punitive sentencing generally in other countries. It is likely that Life without Parole (LWOP) sentences or 'Three strikes' sentencing laws would not have proliferated without widespread public support. Yet there is now evidence that the public mood is changing. Recent research and surveys have demonstrated strong support for a less punitive approach to punishing offenders. This seminar will highlight the latest findings in the area, and discuss the growing gap between the mass use of imprisonment and public opinion in the US. We pay particular attention to racial differences in attitudes to sentencing and the use of imprisonment.

2:15-2:20 p.m.

**Break**

2:20-3:20 p.m.

**Break-Out Session 2**

### **Criminal History and Recidivism Risk: A Multi-Jurisdictional Comparison**

(Johnson Great Hall)

- **Dr. Rhys Hester (Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission)**
- **Dr. Julia Laskorunsky (University of Minnesota Law School)**
- **Dr. Tracey Kyckelhahn (U.S. Sentencing Commission)**

In many guidelines jurisdictions, criminal history enhancements are partially or primarily employed as proxies for risk prevention. But to date, the question of whether these scores are actually valid predictors of risk has been under-explored. With the exception of the federal guidelines, it appears that most criminal history scores were not empirically generated as recidivism predictors, so it is possible that some guidelines criminal history scores increase punishment for factors that are not related to recidivism. This panel explores three efforts to empirically analyze the risk prediction value of guidelines criminal history scores.

### **Determinate Prison Release and Mass Punishment**

(Ski-U-Mah Conference Room)

- **Professor Kevin Reitz (University of Minnesota Law School)**
- **Dr. Edward Rhine (The Robina Institute, University of Minnesota Law School)**
- **Alexis Watts (University of Minnesota Law School)**

The process of inmate release from prison is crucial to how mass punishment functions in each U.S. jurisdiction. While the Robina Institute's past parole research has focused on states with discretionary parole release ("indeterminate" systems), much of our 2017 research explores release in parole abolitionist jurisdictions ("determinate" systems) like Minnesota. Research has revealed unexpected amount of variation among non-parole states in their release approach and in other correctional practices. With a better understanding of how each of the systems operate, we can now ask whether a "model" determinate sentencing state like Minnesota has lessons to learn from other approaches. We can also make an informed evaluation of the real-world results of determinate sentencing philosophies, and in particular assess their effect on mass punishment.

## ***Reversing Mass Punishment in America***

Memorial Hall, McNamara Alumni Center

3:20-3:30 p.m.

**Break**

3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Plenary: Community Supervision and Mass Punishment**

- **Dr. Gregory Dillon (Dallas County Probation, Texas)**
- **Associate Professor Cecelia Klingele (University of Wisconsin Law School)**
- **Assistant Professor Ebony Ruhland (University of Cincinnati)**
- **Hon. George Stephenson (2nd Judicial District, Ramsey County, MN)**

In the United States, the number of people on community supervision (probation) is growing higher and higher each year. The Robina Institute's Probation Revocation Project conducted research in rural and urban jurisdictions across the country to examine various issues related to community supervision. We found a range of policies and procedures and perspectives. Many individuals are required to comply with a high number of conditions in order to be successful on supervision and eventually released. If they fail to comply with these conditions, they could face the risk of violating the terms of their supervision, which could lead to a revocation of their probation or supervision and a sentence in jail or prison.

This panel will discuss the implications of what it means to have a large number of conditions, as well as how the length of terms of some sentences could be potential contributors to the rise in mass punishment practices in the U.S. We will examine opposing perspectives: from the point of view that suggests that there are too many conditions and that terms are too long which could set individuals up for failure, and from the perspective that these conditions are necessary and the length of terms are adequate or should be longer to rehabilitate individuals and increase public safety.

4:30-4:45 p.m.

**Wrap-Up: Reversing Mass Punishment in America**

- **Kelly Mitchell (University of Minnesota Law School)**

4:45-5:15 p.m.

**Book Signing: Professor James Forman, Jr., and Professor Kevin Reitz**

4:45-6:30 p.m.

**Conference Reception**

## ***Reversing Mass Punishment in America***

### **Speakers Biographies**

**The Honorable Pamela Alexander** is a judge in the 4th Judicial District, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Judge Alexander grew up in South Minneapolis and graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School. She began her legal career as a criminal defense attorney with the Legal Rights Center and then moved to the Hennepin County Attorney's office as a prosecutor in the Criminal Division. Since 1983 she has been a Hennepin County District Court Judge where she presided over the Juvenile Division and served as Assistant Chief Judge for the Court as a whole. She sits on many community boards and committees including The Minneapolis Foundation Board of Trustees, the Children's Defense Fund, and the Juvenile Judges Leadership Council, and has been awarded numerous community service awards ranging from the University of St. Thomas School of Law Dean's Award for Outstanding Teaching to the NAACP Profiles in Courage Award.

**The Honorable Kathleen Blatz** is the former Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. She served on the Minnesota Supreme Court from 1996 to 2006, becoming Chief Justice in 1998. She was the first woman in Minnesota's history to lead the state's judicial branch. As Chief Justice, Blatz championed the issue of improving the court's handling of abused and neglected children and led the judiciary's efforts to enhance access to justice. In 2007, Blatz was recognized by *Minnesota Law & Politics* Legal Hall of Fame as "One of the 100 Most Influential Attorneys in State History." Prior to attending law school, Blatz was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives where she served 15 years. Her service included being chair of the Crime and Family Law Committee and an Assistant Minority Leader. Prior to being appointed to the Supreme Court, Blatz was a district court judge in the Fourth Judicial District. She received her law degree with honors and her Masters in Social Work degree from the University of Minnesota, and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Notre Dame, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa. Blatz currently specializes in mediation and arbitration. She also serves on the boards of Columbia Funds and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. In 2011 she was court-appointed as the Special Master in the State of Minnesota Government shut-down case.

**Dr. Gregory Dillon** is a deputy director for the Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections Department. The Dallas County CSCD is charged with public protection through the supervision of more than 43,780 offenders. Dr. Dillon earned a Doctorate of Counseling from Texas Southern University in 2006 and is a Texas Licensed Professional Counselor. He has worked in the field of community supervision for 21 years, serving 17 years in the state of Texas. In 2010, he was a graduate of the American Probation and Parole Association Leadership Institute which led to his nomination as the current Region 12 (Texas) Representative to the APPA Board of Directors and appointment in 2017 to the APPA Executive Board. He is also active at the state level where he serves on the board of directors for the Texas Probation Association. Dr. Dillon is an advocate of evidenced-based practices on the local, state and national levels and encourages more focus in the areas of technology, diversity, culture, and professional development.

**Professor James Forman Jr.** a Professor of Law at Yale Law School. He is a graduate of Atlanta's Roosevelt High School, Brown University, and Yale Law School, and was a law clerk for Judge William Norris of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the United States Supreme Court. After clerking, he joined the Public Defender Service in Washington, D.C., where for six years he represented both juveniles and adults charged with crimes. During his time as a public defender, Professor Forman became frustrated with the lack of education and job training opportunities for his clients. In 1997, along with David Domenici, he started the Maya Angelou Public Charter School, an alternative school for school dropouts and youth who had previously been arrested. A decade later, in 2007, Maya Angelou School expanded and agreed to run the school inside D.C.'s juvenile prison. That school, which had long been an abysmal failure, has been transformed under the leadership of the Maya Angelou staff; the court monitor overseeing D.C.'s juvenile system called the turnaround "extraordinary." Forman taught at Georgetown Law from 2003 to 2011, when he joined the Yale faculty. At Yale, he teaches Constitutional Law, a seminar called Race, Class and Punishment, and a seminar called "Inside Out: Issues in Criminal Justice," in which Yale law students study alongside men incarcerated in a Connecticut prison.

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Professor Forman teaches and writes in the areas of criminal procedure and criminal law policy, constitutional law, juvenile justice, and education law and policy. His particular interests are schools, prisons, and police, and those institutions' race and class dimensions. Professor Forman's book, *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*, was published in 2017.

**Professor Richard S. Frase** is Co-Director of the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice and the Benjamin N. Berger Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Minnesota Law School. He teaches criminal law, criminal procedure, and the federal defense clinic. He has also taught the Misdemeanor and the Federal Prosecution clinics. His seminars include comparative criminal procedure, sentencing guidelines, and sentencing policy. He was the Julius E. Davis Professor of Law for 1988-89 and became the Benjamin N. Berger Professor of Criminal Law in 1991. His scholarship examines Minnesota and other state sentencing guidelines, punishment and proportionality theories, criminal procedure in the U.S. and abroad, and comparison of sentencing law and practice in the United States and in other nations. He is the author or co-author of eight books and over seventy articles and essays on these topics.

**Dr. Rhys Hester** is the Deputy Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Criminology and Penn State University. He holds a PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice as well as a JD. Prior to his current position at the Commission, Dr. Hester was a Research Fellow in Sentencing Law and Policy at the Robina Institute, University of Minnesota Law School. He teaches courses related to courts, constitutional law, and criminal law and procedure. His research has been published in academic journals and law reviews including *Criminology* and *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.

**Dr. Tracey Kyckelhahn** has worked as a Senior Research Associate at the United States Sentencing Commission since November 2015. She has focused primarily on criminal history and recidivism while at the Commission. From May of 2006 to November 2015 she was a statistician at the Bureau of Justice Statistics where she worked on projects related to justice expenditures and employment, federal and state criminal and civil case processing, and human trafficking. She has a PhD, MA, and BA in sociology from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Dr. Julia Laskorunsky** is a Research Fellow at the Robina Institute. She is working on the Criminal History Enhancements Project and the Parole Release and Revocation Project. Julia received her PhD in Criminology from Pennsylvania State University. Her dissertation focused on the use of actuarial risk assessments at sentencing and was funded by the National Institute of Justice Dissertation Fellowship. Julia's research focuses on the ways sentencing structures and correctional practices affect incarceration rates and racial disparity in the criminal justice system. Her work can be seen in the *Journal of Crime and Justice*, the *Advancing Criminology* and *Criminal Justice Policy*, and Oxford Handbooks Online.

**Kelly Lyn Mitchell** is the Executive Director of the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, and is also co-director of the Institute's Sentencing Guidelines Resource Center. Mitchell was the Executive Director of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission from 2011 to 2014, and has also served on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Sentencing Commissions (NASC) since the fall of 2011. She was elected to a 3-year term as President of NASC in 2014. From 2001 to 2011 she worked at the Minnesota Judicial Branch as a staff attorney and manager, where she served as the Branch's liaison to other criminal justice agencies and was responsible for several statewide programs and services such as drug courts, the court interpreter program, and examiner services for sex offender civil commitment exams. She provided legal support to trial court judges and court administrators on issues ranging from criminal and juvenile delinquency law to court records access and fines and fees. She also provided legal support for several Minnesota Supreme Court rules and policy committees, and in this role led efforts to fully revise the Minnesota Criminal Rules of Procedure and the Minnesota Juvenile Delinquency Rules of Procedure. She earned her J.D. from the University of North Dakota Law School, and has a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

## ***Reversing Mass Punishment in America***

**Dr. Ashley Nellis** is a Senior Research Analyst for The Sentencing Project. She has an academic and professional background in analyzing criminal justice policies and practices, and has extensive experience in studying racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system. She regularly delivers testimony, publishes articles and reports, and conducts research in the areas of juvenile and criminal justice. Her work is particularly concerned with elevating awareness about the growing number of individuals serving lengthy sentences in prison such as life sentences and sentences of life without parole (LWOP). Her most recent report in this area is *Still Life: America's Increasing Use of Life and Long-Term Sentences*. Dr. Nellis is the author of *A Return to Justice: Rethinking our Approach to Juveniles in the System*, a book which chronicles America's historical treatment of youth in the justice system and discusses the work that remains in order to reorient juvenile justice practices toward the original vision. She received her Ph.D. in Justice, Law and Society from American University's School of Public Affairs.

**Professor Kevin R. Reitz** is Co-Director of the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice and the James Annenberg La Vea Land Grant Chair in Criminal Procedure Law at the University of Minnesota Law School. He joined the University of Minnesota law faculty in 2005. He teaches criminal law, criminal procedure, and professional responsibility. His scholarship is focused on criminal justice policy, including law and criminology. His book with Henry Ruth, *The Challenge of Crime: Rethinking Our Response* (Harvard University Press, 2003), considers issues of crime and punishment in American history, drug control policy, policing, gun control, and juvenile justice. Much of his writing has been in the field of sentencing law and policy. He is most recently the editor of *American Exceptionalism in Crime and Punishment* (Oxford University Press, 2017), and reporter, with Cecelia Klingele as assistant reporter, for the American Law Institute's *Model Penal Code: Sentencing*.

**Dr. Edward E. Rhine** is the Project Director of the Parole Release and Revocation Project at the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, University of Minnesota Law School. From 2004 to 2013, Rhine was the Deputy Director for the Office of Offender Reentry, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. His career has included leadership positions in juvenile and adult corrections in New Jersey, Georgia, and Ohio. He has written and edited numerous publications addressing the work of paroling authorities, the impact of judicial intervention on prison discipline, change issues in probation and parole, the emergence of offender reentry, and correctional best practices. Recent publications include a co-authored article (with Professor Anthony Thompson) on *The Reentry Movement in Corrections: Resiliency, Fragility and Prospects*, in the *Criminal Law Bulletin*, and a chapter on *The Present Status and Future Prospects of Parole Boards and Parole Supervision* in *The Oxford Handbook of Sentencing and Corrections*. He is also co-author of chapter with Joan Petersilia and Kevin Reitz titled "The Future of Parole Release" published recently in Michael Tonry, *Reinventing American Criminal Justice*. He has taught part-time since 1998 as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sociology at Ohio State University. From 2014 to 2015, Rhine served as a Commissioner on the Ohio Public Defender Commission. Dr. Rhine earned his B.A. in Sociology at Ohio University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. (also in Sociology) at Rutgers University.

**Professor Julian Roberts** is a Professor of Criminology at Oxford University, and is Co-Director of the Robina Institute's Criminal History Enhancements Project. Roberts has a doctorate in experimental psychology from the University of Toronto. He taught for many years at the University of Ottawa before moving to Oxford in 2005, and he has also been a visiting professor at King's College London, the University of Cambridge, the University of Toronto, and universities in Israel and Belgium. He was a researcher on the Canadian Sentencing Commission from 1984 to 1988, and since 2010 he has been a member of the Sentencing Council of England and Wales.

**Dr. Ebony Ruhland** is an Assistant Professor of Criminology at the University of Cincinnati. She is the former Research Director for the Robina Institute's Parole Release and Revocation Project and the Probation Revocation Project. Professor Ruhland received her Ph.D. from the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota and her M.A. from St. Mary's University. Previously, Dr. Ruhland was the Research Director for the Council on Crime and Justice, a nonprofit agency specializing in criminal justice research, policy, and direct service. Her research interests include examining how individuals, families, and communities are impacted by crime and the criminal justice system.

## ***Reversing Mass Punishment in America***

**Scott Schultz** has served as the Executive Director of the Kansas State Sentencing Commission since 2011 and has served on the National Association of Sentencing Commissions Executive Committee since 2013. In this time, his agency has taken the lead in promoting evidence-based practices aimed at reducing recidivism in Kansas. Prior to joining the Commission, Scott worked at the Kansas Securities Commissioner's Office for almost 12 years as an Associate General Counsel, Assistant Attorney General and was cross-designated as a Special Assistant United States Attorney to prosecute securities violations in state and federal court. His prior employment pursuits include criminal defense work in private practice and prosecuting violent crime as an assistant county attorney. Scott received his law degree from the Washburn University School of Law and his undergraduate degree from Kansas State University.

**Professor Loretta J. Stalans** is a Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology and of Psychology, and Director of the Psychology of Crime and Justice Minor. She also is an affiliated Professor of Women's Studies and Gender Studies at Loyola University Chicago. She received her PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Illinois Chicago in 1990, and has taught at Loyola since 1994. Before coming to Loyola, she was an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Center Fellow at the Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research at Georgia State University (1991 to 1994) and a Collaborating Scholar of the American Bar Foundation (1990-1999).

**The Honorable George Stephens** was appointed to the bench in 2002. His current term expires in 2023. He earned his J.D. at William Mitchell College of Law in 1985 and a B.A. from St. Mary's College in 1980. He currently serves as a Judge for Ramsey County District Court. Judge Stephenson is a member of a number of court committees, panels, community organizations, boards and educational programs, including the Summit-University Frogtown Sentencing Circle; the Hmong Community Peace-Keeping Circle; St. Paul First Offenders Program (lecturing prostitution-related offenders); Ramsey County Community Court and Project Remand. Judge Stephenson was instrumental in establishing the John School Program, a program whose aim is to reduce prostitution-related crime; offenders are required to pay for their participation in the program and the proceeds are used to assist former prostitutes in remaining out of the life of prostitution and to assist them in finding stable housing.

**Alexis Watts** is the Robina Institute's Research Attorney. She currently works for both the Parole Release and Revocation Project and the Sentencing Guidelines Resource Center. She is the principal author of many of the Institute's Profiles in Parole Release and Revocation and is currently researching practices in states that have abolished discretionary release. She is responsible for all content updates for the SGRC and has authored several articles comparing and analyzing sentencing guidelines jurisdictions. She is also the principal author of the forthcoming report *Closing the "Gap" Between Competency and Commitment in Minnesota*. She graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2014 *magna cum laude* with a criminal law concentration and began work with the Institute in 2013 as a student. Prior to joining the Institute full-time, she was a student law clerk with Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid and with the Ramsey County Public Defender, and completed a post-graduate fellowship with the Yolo County Public Defender in Woodland, CA. She also holds an MPA from the University of Washington and served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Mali ('06-'08).

**Bennet Wright** serves as the Executive Director of the Alabama Sentencing Commission and is also the President of the National Association of Sentencing Commissions. Mr. Wright chairs the Commission's Standards Committee tasked with developing the State's sentencing guidelines, was a member of the Alabama Prison Reform Task Force and now sits on the Alabama Criminal Justice Oversight and Implementation Council to monitor implementation of the omnibus Justice Reinvestment legislation aimed to reduce Alabama's prison population while improving community based supervision and treatment options. Prior to joining the Commission, Mr. Wright worked for the federal judiciary at the United States Administrative Office of Courts in Washington, D.C. and before that taught courses including Statistics, Sociology, Criminology, and Deviance at Auburn University. Mr. Wright received his undergraduate degree in criminology and his graduate degree in sociology. He is a native of the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana.



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