

## SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 3, 2025

CHICAGO, IL \* UNIVERSITY PARK, IL





### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND THE JUDICIARY

SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 3, 2025

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This global event brings together practitioners, researchers, educators, policymakers, health professionals, students, and others from diverse disciplines and regions – including Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America to exchange knowledge and explore innovative approaches to restorative practices.

Hosted by Governors State University (USA), the 2025 conference features international collaboration with leading institutions such as the University Unesc (Brazil), the University of Insubria (Italy), the Italian Consulate, estorative Justice Community Courts, Rush University, and the Zehr Institute. Together, we aim to strengthen global efforts in criminal justice, education, health, environmental justice, and beyond.

SCAN TO SIGN-UP FOR PRE-CONFERENCE, OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TRANSPORTATION



### **CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

### 9:00 A.M. Sauk Vi

Sauk Village Community Court 10:00 - Noon

> 2700 Kalvelage Dr., Sauk Village, IL 60411

NewRott (Chicago Public Schools) 9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

CHICAGO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COURTS AND INITIATIVES

910 W Van Buren St, Suite 200 Chicago, IL 60607 Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO) 2:00 – 3:30 P.M.

2519 W North Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647

4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

-4:00P.M.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY (PLEASE SIGN-UP)** 

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

10:00 A.M. — NOON **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COURTS AND AGENCIES** 

BUILD (hope, lives, future) | 5100 W. Harrison St. Chicago, IL 60644

6:00 P.M.

GIORDANO'S PIZZA

Optional Activity (Use QR code to sign-up) | 730 N Rush St, Chicago,

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025 | RUSH UNIVERSITY

**Joan and Paul Rubschlager Building Conference Rooms A&B**Rush University, 1520 W Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60612

4:30 - 6:30 P.M.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE HEALING CIRCLE NAVAJO PEACE MAKING

Chief Justice Emeritus Robert Yazzie Micro-Credential Badge – (Use QR code to sign-up)

6:45 —7:15 P.M.

JUDICIAL APPLICATIONS OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN HAWAII

Professor Lorenn Walker, University of Hawaii

7:15 - 9 P.M.

REFRESHMENT AND SOCIAL HOUR

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025 | GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

Hall of Governors (enter through the Main entrance)
1 University Parkway, University Park, IL

8:00 — 8:45 A.M. | **REGISTRATION / BREAKFAST/NETWORKING** 

8:45 A.M.

**CONFERENCE WELCOME** 

Dr. Joi Patterson, PhD, Chief of Institutional Engagement and Excellence

8:55 A.M.

UNIVERSITY WELCOME

Dr. Joyce Ester, PhD, University President

9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

# INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND THE JUDICIARY SYSTEM

Margherita Cassano, President of the Italy Supreme Court of Cassation Mario Alberto Bartoli, Consul General of Italy Minister Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County

10:00 - 10:15 A.M.

**NETWORKING BREAK** 



DOWNLOAD THE WHOVA CONFERENCE APP TO SIGN UP FOR SESSIONS IN ADVANCE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TOPICS AND PRESENTERS.

#### CIRCLE SESSION 1 | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

#### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**Adam Juras I** Visit Whova Ap for room locations

#### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN BRAZIL: BEYOND THE JUDICIARY

Fernando Jayme I Visit Whova Ap for room locations

## WHAT IS YOUR PRACTICE IN MEDIATION AND/OR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Lais Rohem, Cassia Souza, and Joao Nadaes | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

#### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

David Karp | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# FROM COURTROOMS TO CIRCLES: REIMAGINING JUSTICE THROUGH COMMUNITY-CENTERED RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Shaniqua Jones | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

### 10:15 — 11:15 A.M.

# LOOKING INTO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE THROUGH AN INTERSECTIONAL LENS

Jah'Miaa Brooks | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICES: A COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

**Helen Washington-Powell** I Visit Whova Ap for room locations

#### **GUILTY BUT MENTALLY ILL**

Joe Rice | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WITHIN CRIMINAL JUSTICE: A CHANCE TO ENGAGE LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN MANAGING CONFLICTS ARISING FROM ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

Chiara Perini | I Engbretson Hall (hybrid)

# ECOLOGICAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL GOVERNANCE IN THE CASE OF LAGOA DA CONCEICA

**Humberto Filpi and José Rubens Morato Leite** | Engbretson Hall (hybrid)

#### CIRCLE SESSION 2 | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## CHANGING LIVES THROUGH CASE MANAGEMENT IN THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COURTS

Claire Zupan and Michelle Aponte | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

LINKING SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS TO SUPPORT FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM: THE EFFECT OF MEDIA AND SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Erica Ceka | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# LINGUISTIC JUSTICE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION: RESTORATIVE APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING DISPROPORTIONALITY

Camille O'Quin | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

BRIDGING DIFFERENCES AND BUILDING COMMUNITY:
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN LINGUISTICALLY AND CULTURALLY
DIVERSE SCHOOLS

Valerie Butron | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

# RJ AND CO-PRODUCTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES: THERAPEUTIC USE OF CANNABIDIOL

Raquel Amaral and João Salm | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE THROUGH STEAM: EMPOWERING JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS WITH TECHNOLOGY AND CODING

Natalie Coleman | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

THE RESULTS OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE BASED ON THE PSYCHODYNAMICS OF PEOPLE USING CANNABIS SATIVA EXTRACT

Debora Teixeira da Cruz | Engbretson Hall (hybrid)

RESTORING JUSTICE IN NEIGHBORHOODS: STUDY OF THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMUNITY COURT, COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE, AND EMERGING ADULTS TRANSFORMATION BASED ON THE TRANSTHEORETICAL MODEL OF CHANGE

Margaret Kulujian | Engbretson Hall (hybrid)

### 12:30 A.M. — 1:30 P.M.

#### **LUNCH AND KEYNOTE**

Dr. Garrard McClendon, award winning author, content creator, and professor Hall of Governors

### **CIRCLE SESSION 3 | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

#### TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN EGYPT AND POST-REVOLUTION TRAILS

**Hussein Allam** I Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# BEYOND THE BULLET: HOW RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COURTS ARE TRANSFORMING GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

leshia Gray | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# EXPERIENCES WITH DIALOGUE CIRCLES AT THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF RIO DE JANEIRO (BRAZIL)

Natalia Neves | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

#### **DECOLONIZING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

Dr. Edward Valandra | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

#### Dr. Edward Valandra II. Visit Whove An far room leastions

### A CASE FOR BUILDING RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN THE WORKPLACE

Shana Louallen | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# EDUCATE, NOT INCARCERATE: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS A SOLUTION FOR URBAN SCHOOLS

**Don Parker** I Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# CREATING ALONG: NETWORK OF WOMEN ADVANCING FEMALE LEADERSHIP IN BRAZIL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MOVEMENT

Judge Katia Roncada | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# JUSTICE AS HEALING: THE STORY OF COOK COUNTY'S RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMUNITY COURTS

Judge Collen Sheehan | I Visit Whova Ap for room locations

#### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN INSTITUTIONS

Minister Alexandre Teixeira de Freitas Bastos Cunha | I Engbretson Hall (hybrid)

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE: TWO LANGUAGES TWO WORLDS?

Grazia Mannozzi | Engbretson Hall (hybrid)

1:45 - 2:45 P.M.

#### CIRCLE SESSION 4 | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### HONORING THE LEGACY OF HENRIETTA LACKS: A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FRAMEWORK FOR REBUILDING TRUST IN CLINICAL RESEARCH AMONG BLACK AMERICANS

Tonya Roberson, Alfred Lacks-Cater, and Kayla T Moore | | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

### FOSTERING BELONGING AND INCLUSION: APPLYING A SOCIAL JUSTICE LENS TO GRADUATE HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING PROGRAMS

Nicole Bing | I Visit Whova Ap for room locations

### ACTIVATING ARTS TO CREATE COMMUNITY WHILE ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE IN CHICAGO

Woodman Taylor | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION: BUILDING CONNECTION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND GROWTH

**Eboni Rucker** I Visit Whova Ap for room locations

### EXAMINING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE APPROACHES FOR SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Wayne Roper | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

### **METAPHORS, ORALITY & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

Claudio Fontana | Engbretson Hall (hybrid)

### WHAT KIND OF TRUTH FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY CRIME? REFLECTIONS FROM BOTH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PERSPECTIVES

Alice Angelini | Engbretson Hall (hybrid)

3:00 -4:00 P.M. 4:00 - 4:15 P.M.

#### NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK BREAK

Challenge – Let's see who can visit the most sculptures

4:15 - 5:00 P.M.

# PANEL DISCUSSION: "HOW CAN WE COLLABORATE ON MAKING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MORE EFFECTIVE IN OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES?"

International Perspectives from Chief Justice Emeritus Robert Yazzie, Judge Raquel Domingues, Dr. Muhammad Asadullah, Dr. Edward Valandra, and Dr. Nicholas A. Jones | I Engbretson Hall

5:00 - 5:30 P.M.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS BY VICTORIOUS LIVING CHURCH OF GOD

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025 | GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

**Engbretson Hall (enter through the Main entrance)** 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL

8:00 — 9:00 A.M. | **REGISTRATION / BREAKFAST/NETWORKING** 

9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

**GENERAL SESSION — JUDICIARY** 

Professor Grazia Mannozzi and Professor Daniel Preve | Engbretson Hall

10:00 - 10:15 A.M.

**NETWORKING BREAK** 

#### CIRCLE SESSION 5 | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

#### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Janet Murdock | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# LITERACY AS LIBERATION: A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE APPROACH TO BLACK LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Camille O'Quin | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# HEALING THE EDUCATOR: SEL, SELF-AWARENESS, AND MENTAL WELLNESS IN THE SCHOOL WORKPLACE

Eboni Rucker | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# HOW ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES) INFLUENCE INDIVIDUALS TO ENLIST IN THE MILITARY

Michael Davis II | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

10:15 -- 11:15 A.M. CRIMINAL JUSTICE, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND THE JUDICIARY: THE ITALIAN COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH Gian Luigi Gatta | Engbretson Hall (hybrid)

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND VICTIMLESS CRIMES: THEORIES, PRACTICES, AND NEW PERSPECTIVES

Giuseppe Losappio | Engbretson Hall (hybrid)

11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

#### CIRCLE SESSION 6 | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BEYOND JUSTICE: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO USING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

leshia Gray | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN THE BRAZILIAN FEDERAL JUSTICE SYSTEM — EXPERIENCE IN SÃO PAULO — FEDERAL REGIONAL COURT - TRF3

Priscila Carvalho and Maria Fernanda de Moura e Souza | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN BRAZIL AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Maria Fernanda de Moura e Souza and Pricila Carvalho | I Visit Whova Ap for room locations

TO WHAT EXTENT JUDICIAL MEDIATION ANSWERS THE DILEMMAS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM: AN APPROACH FOR DESIGNING A COURT ANNEXED MEDIATION PROGRAM IN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT Mostafa Elsherif I Visit Whova Ap for room locations

SOS (SAVE OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN) VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM: A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE APPROACH TO COMMUNITY HEALING

Tonya Roberson, Dori Collins, and Sidney Johnson | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

# TRANSFORMING SCHOOL CULTURE: FROM PUNITIVE TO RESTORATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

T McDaniel | Visit Whova Ap for room locations

11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

# STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN RJ AND JURISDICTION IN THE ITALIAN SYSTEM

Marco Bouchard | Engbretson Hall

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN ITALY: A GOOD MODEL WITHOUT A REAL PRACTICAL APPLICATION (FOR NOW)

Rebecca Girani | Engbretson Hall

12:30 **–** 2:00 P.M.

#### **LUNCH / PLENARY SESSION AND SHARE OUT**

**Engbretston Hall** 

Dra Gisele Silveira Coelho Lopes, President of University of the Extreme South of Santa Catarina (UNESC) DeMointe Wesley, Associate Director of the Howard Zehr Institute

Professor Nicola Selvaggi, Assoicate Professor of Criminal Law and Director of Research Center

2:15 - 3:30 P.M.

#### POSTER BOARDS AND VENDORS

**E-Lounge** | Poster Board presentations from around the globe and local restorative justice organizations

#### HEALING THROUGH HOUSE MUSIC

E-Lounge | DJ Duane Powell

2:15 - 3:30 P.M.

**RECEPTION** 

3:30 - 4:00 P.M. ENRICHMENT — VISIT THE SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE BUILDING AND SCULPTURE PARK



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CHERYL F. GREEN SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE



DOWNLOAD THE WHOVA CONFERENCE APP TO SIGN UP FOR SESSIONS IN ADVANCE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TOPICS AND PRESENTERS.

### PLENARY PRESENTERS



#### DR. JOYCE ESTER

Dr. Joyce Ester is a highly accomplished leader in higher education, bringing more than 30 years of experience in academic and administrative roles spanning student affairs, faculty and staff governance, and financial management.

Before her appointment as President of Governors State University, Dr. Ester served as President of Normandale Community College in Minnesota—the state's largest community college. During her tenure, she successfully raised millions of dollars to support the launch of a new Interdisciplinary Professional Education (IPE) program and the expansion of healthcare facilities. Under her leadership, the college saw an 18% increase in enrollment among students of color from 2015 to 2020. Normandale serves more than 14,000 credit and 2,000 non-credit students annually.

Prior to Normandale, Dr. Ester served as President of Kennedy-King College, one of the seven City Colleges of Chicago, where she led initiatives focused on student success, workforce development, and community engagement.

A native of Phoenix, Illinois, Dr. Ester holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Northern Illinois University and both a master's and a doctorate in Education from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Her early career included 16 years on the West Coast, where she held a variety of leadership roles at three California institutions. She served as Associate Vice President for Student Services at Bakersfield College, Assistant Vice President for Judicial Affairs and Division Planning at California State University, Fresno, and Assistant Dean of Students for Judicial Affairs at the University of California, Santa Barbara.



#### DR. MUHAMMAD ASADULLAH

Dr. Muhammad Asadullah is an Associate Professor in the Department of Justice Studies at the University of Regina, where he is also recognized as a President's Teaching Scholar and recipient of the 2024 CTL Teaching Award for teaching and learning excellence. He holds a PhD and Master's in Criminology from Simon Fraser University, and a Master's in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University. His research focuses on restorative justice, transitional justice, decolonized teaching, and youth justice.

Dr. Asadullah has received numerous awards, including the Neekaneewak Indigenous Leadership Award, the Contemplative Social Justice Scholar Award, and the Best Paper Prize from the Restorative Justice Working Group of the European Society of Criminology. He has taught at Simon Fraser University, the University of the Fraser Valley, and Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and has served on boards such as the Institute for Justice, Decolonization, and Peace, and the Saskatchewan Restorative Justice Network.

A certified Nonviolent Communication trainer, Dr. Asadullah regularly facilitates workshops in community, academic, and correctional settings across Canada and internationally, with experience in over a dozen countries. Guided by Elders in Treaty 4 territory, he works to integrate respect, compassion, and cultural grounding into justice practices. His work reflects the IRJ keynote theme by advancing restorative approaches that center relationship-building, equity, and community empowerment.



#### MARIO ALBERTO BARTOLI

Mario Alberto Bartoli (La Spezia, 1971) is a distinguished Italian diplomat with over two decades of international service. He graduated in Law from the University of Salerno in 1996 and entered the diplomatic corps in 1999.

Bartoli has held key posts across Europe and Asia, including Deputy Head of Mission at the Italian Embassies in Tallinn, Manila, Jakarta, and Helsinki. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, he led divisions covering North-East Asia, the OSCE and Council of Europe, and later the Sahel and West Africa. His expertise spans political, security, and global issues, reflecting his broad command of international diplomacy and cross-cultural engagement.

In September 2024, he was appointed Consul General of Italy in Chicago, overseeing consular services across 11 U.S. states.

Renowned for his strategic leadership and deep commitment to fostering international cooperation, Bartoli brings exceptional diplomatic skill, cultural insight, and a passion for building bridges between nations.

He is married to Tatjana Batuhtina and is the proud father of two children. Beyond his professional life, he enjoys music, cinema, art, and fine wine.



#### MARGHERITA CASSANO, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF CASSATION

Margherita Cassano, President of the Supreme Court of Cassation was born in Florence in 1955 and entered the Judiciary in 1980, as deputy prosecutor at the Prosecution Office in Florence, where she was later serving at the Anti-mafia District Unit from 1991 to 1998. From 1998 to 2002 Margherita Cassano was a member of the High Judicial Council in charge of the Sixth and Ninth Committees and a member of the Disciplinary Unit.

Afterwards, with the title of appellate judge, Margherita Cassano served at the Ufficio del Massimario e del Ruolo (Study & Research Office) at the Italian Supreme Court and in 2006 became Supreme Court Justice at the First Criminal Chamber. She was a member of the Supreme Court's Criminal Grand Chamber and the Vice-Director of the Court's Electronic Documentation Centre.

In 2016 Margherita Cassano was appointed President of the Court of Appeal of Florence where she served until 2020 when she started her office as Adjunct President of the Italian Supreme Court. In this capacity she coordinated the Court's criminal sector and cooperated with the First President sitting on, inter alia, the Civil Grand Chamber dealing with appeals in disciplinary matters.

Margherita Cassano was also a member of the Scientific Board of the Italian High Judicial Council with regard to judicial training, a member of the technical Committee on the judicial requirements for Supreme Court justices, and of the decentralised training unit of the Judicial School at the Italian Supreme Court. Margherita Cassano has held lectures at universities, at university specialisation schools for legal professions, and has taken part in seminars organised by the High Judicial Council and the Italian Bar Association.

She has authored a high number of publications on criminal law, both substantive and procedural, and on the Italian judicial system.



#### JUDGE RAQUEL DOMINGUES DO AMARAL

Judge Raquel Domingues do Amaral serves on the Appeals Panel of the Federal Small Claims Courts of Mato Grosso do Sul, a position she has held since 2013. She earned her PhD in State Law from the University of São Paulo, a Master's in Legal Effectiveness from the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP), and a Law degree from Dom Bosco Catholic University.

In addition to her judicial duties, Judge Amaral is a professor of Civil Procedural Law at Unigran Capital University Center. Her research focuses on United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), with interests in restorative justice, ecological law, ESG principles, and human rights. She has contributed to academic publications and participated in judicial conferences addressing innovation and community-centered legal approaches.

Her work bridges the gap between formal judicial processes and inclusive, rights-based practices, ensuring justice is both effective and equitable. Judge Amaral's commitment to human dignity and environmental stewardship directly reflects the IRJ keynote theme, promoting justice systems that serve people and communities holistically.



#### CHIEF JUDGE TIMOTHY C. EVANS

Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans leads the Circuit Court of Cook County, the largest of Illinois' 24 judicial circuits and one of the largest unified court systems in the world, serving 5.1 million residents. First elected Chief Judge in 2001, he oversees approximately 400 iudges, an annual budget exceeding \$240 million, and nearly 3,000 employees.

A graduate of the University of Illinois and The John Marshall Law School, Judge Evans has brought transformative reforms to court operations, including enhancing pretrial services, establishing a dedicated Domestic Violence Courthouse, and expanding specialty courts for mental health treatment, veterans, and drug rehabilitation. His tenure has also increased access to justice through free legal and mediation services for low-income residents, and innovative childcare programs for court users.

Previously, Judge Evans served 18 years on the Chicago City Council, including as floor leader under Mayor Harold Washington. His judicial career began in 1992, with leadership roles in the Domestic Relations and Law Divisions before becoming Chief Judge. His numerous honors include the prestigious William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence.

Judge Evans's dedication to fairness, access, and innovative problem-solving aligns with the IRJ keynote theme, advancing justice systems that balance accountability with compassion and community support.



#### **JUDGE IESHIA GRAY**

Judge leshia Gray is a visionary leader reshaping the American criminal justice landscape through groundbreaking restorative justice courts. As Presiding Judge of the Sauk Village Restorative Justice Community Court, she has successfully pioneered innovative programs that significantly reduce recidivism and heal communities impacted by gun violence.

A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and recipient of the prestigious Order of Barristers award, Judge Gray began her career as a skilled criminal defense attorney in Cook County. Since her judicial election in 2018, she has spearheaded transformative initiatives, including establishing specialized programs addressing civil orders of protection in Cook County's Sixth District, developed in collaboration with the Center for Conflict Resolution.

Judge Gray served as a distinguished faculty member at the Illinois Judicial College, designing and delivering specialized training focused on courtroom management, trauma-informed judicial practices, and enhancing judicial effectiveness statewide. Her extensive experience uniquely positions her to bridge theory with practical judicial reform, and her forthcoming book, offers powerful insights on how restorative justice courts effectively prevent gun violence and reduce recidivism.

A committed community leader, educator, and advocate for justice reform, Judge Gray's work consistently emphasizes safer, healthier communities for future generations. Her professional journey exemplifies her guiding principle: "In this life, let me be a conduit of justice so that it flows like a mighty stream."



#### DR. NICHOLAS (NICK) JONES

Dr. Nicholas (Nick) Jones is a Professor of Justice Studies at the University of Regina, specializing in restorative justice, Indigenous policing, genocide, and transitional justice. He earned his Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from San Jose State University in 1997 and worked extensively in corrections, including at the Calgary and Edmonton Young Offender Centres.

While working as a counselor at a halfway house, Dr. Jones was introduced to restorative justice and trained as a facilitator for family group conferencing. He later earned his PhD in Sociology from the University of Calgary, focusing his dissertation on the judicial response to the Rwandan Genocide. His book, The Courts of Genocide: Politics and the Rule of Law in Rwanda and Arusha (Routledge, 2010), was nominated for the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Book of the Year Award.

Dr. Jones has been with the University of Regina since 2006, contributing to justice education through research, teaching, and community engagement. His applied work bridges academic insight and real-world practice, fostering systems that address harm and promote reconciliation. His commitment to restorative and transitional justice reflects the IRJ keynote theme by advocating for justice processes that heal divisions, uphold human rights, and strengthen communities.



#### DR. DAVID KARP

Dr. David Karp is Professor and Director of the Center for Restorative Justice in the Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego. His scholarship focuses on restorative justice in community, criminal legal, and educational contexts, and he serves as co-principal investigator for the federally funded National Center on Restorative Justice.

Dr. Karp has authored over 150 academic publications and six books, including The Little Book of Restorative Justice for Colleges and Universities, Wounds That Do Not Bind: Victim-Based Perspectives on the Death Penalty, and The Community Justice Ideal. He is the recipient of the Leadership and Innovation Award from the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice and the Donald D. Gehring Award from the Association for Student Conduct Administration.

Previously, Dr. Karp served as Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Professor of Sociology at Skidmore College, where he pioneered restorative practices in higher education. He is a sought-after speaker and trainer, working with institutions and justice systems across the U.S. and internationally to implement restorative principles.

Through research, teaching, and program development, Dr. Karp's work embodies the IRJ keynote theme by fostering justice approaches that repair harm, strengthen communities, and promote human dignity.



#### PRESIDENT DR. GISELE SILVEIRA COELHO LOPES

President Dr. Gisele Silveira Coelho Lopes serves as President of the University of the Extreme South of Santa Catarina (UNESC), where she has championed institutional excellence, innovation, and community engagement. She holds a PhD and Master's in Business Administration from the University of Vale do Itajaí, a specialization in Human Resources Management from UNESC, and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Foreign Trade.

Her leadership includes serving as Provost of Research, Graduate Studies, Innovation, and Extension, where she advanced initiatives in strategic management, process improvement, and entrepreneurship. She has taught across undergraduate and graduate programs, combining academic rigor with practical applications for organizational transformation.

Prof. Lopes's expertise includes strategic and crisis management, people and operations leadership, and fostering innovation-driven cultures. She is committed to higher education that promotes social responsibility, sustainability, and equitable opportunity. Her leadership aligns with the IRJ keynote theme by fostering educational environments that cultivate inclusive leadership, empower communities, and prepare graduates to contribute meaningfully to society.



#### PROFESSOR DR. GRAZIA MANNOZZI

Professor Dr. Grazia Mannozzi is Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Insubria (Como, Italy), where she also teaches "Restorative Justice and Victim-Offender Mediation" and "Transitional Justice." Since 2014, she has served as Director of the Restorative Justice and Mediation Study Centre (CeSGReM), which she founded to advance research and practice in these fields. Her expertise spans restorative justice, sentencing systems, corporate liability, corruption, economic crimes, and the relationship between law and language.

She is the author of La giustizia riparativa. Formanti, parole e metodi—the first Italian handbook on restorative justice—now in its second edition (2025, with G.A. Lodigiani) and being translated into Spanish. She also co-authored La giustizia accogliente (2022, with philosopher Roberto Mancini). Internationally recognized, she chaired the Working Group on Restorative Cities at the European Forum for Restorative Justice in 2019.

Prof. Mannozzi has served on several Italian Legislative Commissions, including the 2021–2022 commission that drafted restorative justice legislation enacted in December 2022. She also represented Italy in the Council of Europe's Working Group on Victims' Rights, contributing to its new Recommendation on Victims' Rights.

Her scholarship and policy contributions bridge academic theory and applied practice, embodying the IRJ keynote theme by championing justice systems that prioritize dialogue, repair, and human dignity.



#### DR. GARRARD MCCLENDON

Dr. Garrard McClendon is an Emmy Award-winning educator, author, and documentary filmmaker. An Associate Professor of Education Policy at Chicago State University, he holds a PhD from Loyola University Chicago. His scholarship examines the intersections of language, culture, and race in education, with a focus on teachers' perceptions and the lived experiences of Black students.

Dr. McClendon's publications include President Thug, Donda's Rules, and Ax or Ask?, works that blend cultural critique, educational theory, and linguistic analysis. He earned a regional Emmy Award for his PBS production The Challenge of Raising Black Boys and directed the acclaimed documentary Forgiving Cain, which explores forgiveness and reconciliation in the aftermath of violent crime.

A sought-after speaker, Dr. McClendon regularly presents on culturally responsive pedagogy, education reform, and racial equity. His work draws from both scholarly research and lived experience, bridging academic discourse with community engagement.

By challenging conventional narratives and advocating for inclusive, justice-centered education, Dr. McClendon advances the IRJ keynote theme—promoting transformative learning environments



#### PROFESSOR DR. DANIEL RIBEIRO PREVE

Professor Dr. Daniel Ribeiro Preve is a Professor and Permanent Researcher in the Postgraduate Program in Law at the University of the Extreme South of Santa Catarina (UNESC). He holds a PhD in Law from the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), a master's in environmental sciences from UNESC, and specializations in Civil Law and Higher Education Methodology.

Dr. Preve leads the Research Group on the Right to the City and Urban and Environmental Sustainability Policies (GPDUC/UNESC) and is active in the Brazilian Institute of Urban Law (IBDU) and the Brazilian Network of Collaborative Urbanism. His scholarship integrates legal analysis with public policy, focusing on sustainable urban planning, environmental justice, and equitable development.

He frequently advises municipalities and contributes to interdisciplinary projects that connect law, governance, and community needs. His research advances solutions to complex urban and environmental challenges, fostering more resilient and inclusive cities.

Dr. Preve's vision for legal frameworks that balance human needs with environmental responsibility aligns with the IRJ keynote theme by promoting justice as a tool for community well-being and sustainability.



#### DR. ALEXANDRE TEIXEIRA DE FREITAS BASTOS CUNHA

Dr. Alexandre Teixeira de Freitas Bastos Cunha graduated in Law from Gama Filho University in 1987 and obtained his PhD from the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain, in 2007. He has been a Labor Judge at the Regional Labor Court of the 1st Region since 1991. He was promoted to Federal Labor Judge in 2005. In addition to his judicial activities, he was General Director of the Judicial School of the TRT of the 1st Region from 2009 to 2013 and a member of the Advisory Board of ENAMAT between 2011 and 2013. He also served as Regional Manager of the Safe Work Committee from 2019 to 2021. He has participated in several courses, conferences and meetings, standing out as a speaker and debater on topics such as discrimination in the workplace, labor reform and collective bargaining.

He has taught Labor Law and Labor Procedural Law at several institutions. He is the author of several monographs and articles published in legal journals and has received awards and medals of honor for his contributions to legal culture and the Judiciary. He is currently an advisor to the National Council of Justice (CNJ) and coordinator of the following Committees: - Restorative Justice Committee (JR); - National Committee to Combat Slavery-Like Labor and Human Trafficking (FONTET); - Management Committee of the National Program for Document Management and Memory of the Judiciary; - Working Group of the National Prosecutor's Office for the Defense of Democracy; - National Tourism Council at the P Founder of the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University Public Prosecutor's Office.



#### DR. EDWARD CHARLES VALANDRA

Dr. Edward Charles Valandra, Ph.D., is a citizen of the Síčáŋǧu Thitȟuŋwaŋ Nation, born and raised in his homeland, the Očhéthi Šakówiŋ Oyáte Makhóčhe. He earned his BA from Minnesota State University—Mankato, his MA from the University of Colorado—Boulder, and his PhD from SUNY—Buffalo. In 2016, Dr. Valandra transitioned from academia to community-based work, dedicating himself to advancing Indigenous sovereignty, restorative justice, and decolonization.

His extensive leadership includes serving a four-year term in his nation's governing body, membership on its Constitutional Task Force, and senior administrative roles in the nation's K–12 charter school system. He is a current member of the 1894 Sioux Nation Treaty Council. As Senior Editor at Living Justice Press, a nonprofit publisher, he focuses on works that address restorative justice, harms between peoples, and Indigenous perspectives.

Dr. Valandra is the author of Not Without Our Consent: Lakota Resistance to Termination, 1950–1959 and editor of Colorizing Restorative Justice: Voicing Our Realities. His forthcoming co-authored work, Environment and Restorative Justice: A Multidimensional Approach to Undoing Settler Harms, deepens the dialogue between Indigenous knowledge systems and justice practices.

Through his scholarship and activism, Dr. Valandra advances the IRJ keynote theme by challenging colonial structures, amplifying Indigenous voices, and advocating for justice grounded in cultural sovereignty and community resilience.



#### LORENN WALKER

Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, is a Hawai'i-based social scientist, health educator, and restorative lawyer whose work focuses on learning, resiliency, and resolving social and legal problems. She directs Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice and serves as an adjunct professor in the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She has also lectured for the William S. Richardson School of Law and other UH departments.

Walker has designed and implemented numerous pilot projects for Hawai'i's state and federal courts, schools, and community organizations. Her initiatives have addressed issues ranging from prison reentry to youth education, with results replicated nationally and internationally. She has authored over 60 publications and trained thousands of professionals, educators, and community leaders. Her expertise has been recognized globally; she is a Senior Fulbright Specialist in peacemaking and conflict management, and her work has been featured by the Oprah Winfrey Network, NPR, and CNN. A dedicated facilitator, she has led hundreds of restorative meetings, helping individuals and communities repair harm and build stronger relationships.

Lorenn Walker's career exemplifies the IRJ keynote theme by demonstrating the transformative power of restorative approaches to empower individuals, strengthen communities, and promote justice systems that heal rather than harm.



#### **DEMOINTÉ WESLEY**

DeMointé Wesley is a student of restorative justice, conflict transformation, and liberatory politics. As an RJ practitioner, they have helped guide others on their restorative justice journey by teaching workshops, holding community spaces, and facilitating harm-repair processes in communities and workplaces.

DeMointé previously served as a facilitator of childhood education (a.k.a. a "teacher"), where they practiced youth-centered restorative and liberatory education, rooted in the belief that the world would be a vastly better place if we all had this learning from an early age. They currently work as the Associate Director of Partnerships and Communications for the National Center on Restorative Justice (NCORJ) and as the Associate Director of the Zehr Institute for Restorative Justice at Eastern Mennonite University's Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. They also serve on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice (NACRJ) and as an Advisory Board member for Restorative Houston. DeMointé earned their Master's Degree in Transformational Leadership from Eastern Mennonite University's Center for Justice and Peacebuilding.



#### CHIEF ROBERT YAZZIE

Chief Robert Yazzie is Chief Justice Emeritus of the Navajo Nation, where he served from 1992 to 2003. A citizen of the Navajo Nation, he has devoted his career to strengthening Indigenous legal traditions and advancing justice systems that honor cultural values. He practiced law within the Navajo Nation for 16 years, served as a district judge for eight years, and has been a lifelong advocate for the application of Diné principles in governance and dispute resolution.

Chief Justice Yazzie was formerly Director of the Diné Policy Institute at Diné College, where he developed policy rooted in authentic Navajo thinking. He has served as a visiting professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law and an adjunct professor at Northern Arizona University's Department of Criminal Justice. His teaching includes Navajo law at the Crownpoint Institute of Technology, and he is a frequent lecturer nationally and internationally on restorative justice, peacemaking, and Indigenous governance.

His contributions extend to collaborations with other Indigenous nations and global communities seeking to integrate traditional knowledge into contemporary legal frameworks.

Chief Justice Yazzie's lifelong dedication to preserving and revitalizing Navajo law reflects the IRJ keynote theme by demonstrating how justice systems can honor cultural heritage while fostering peace, reconciliation, and community healing.



### **WORKSHOP PRESENTERS**



#### **JUDGE HUSSEIN ALLAM**

Judge Hussein Allam is the Chief Judge at the Elementary Court of South Cairo, with extensive experience in law, scholarship, and international collaboration. In addition to his judicial work, he is an accomplished author, novelist, and translator, and serves as an honorary member of the Centre of CeSGReM for Restorative Justice at the University of Insubria, Italy. He previously held a faculty position as Assistant Professor at Menoufia University.

Judge Allam holds a Master in International Law and Comparative Law (L.L.M.) from the American University in Cairo (2023) and a Master of Law from Menoufia University (2009), where he also completed his law degree with honors in 2006. In 2015, he ranked first in the 38th Judicial Preparation Course at Egypt's National Center for Judicial Studies. Judge Allam was awarded the Prize of Literature by the Academy of Arabic Language in Cairo for the Year 2025.

Fluent in Arabic and English, with proficiency in French, Judge Allam brings both legal expertise and a commitment to restorative justice to his work.



#### **ALICE ANGELINI**

Angelini Angelini is a PhD student in Criminal Law at the University of Insubria. She graduated with honors in Law in 2021, with a thesis in criminal law titled "The discretion of the criminal judge in the measurement of the penalty: between rationality and emotions." After completing her degree, she worked as a research fellow and has been actively involved in academic activities as a subject expert in Criminal Law. Her research is currently focused on procedural models that move beyond the determination of guilt, with a particular emphasis on the role of restorative justice in criminal proceedings.



#### MICHELLE APONTE

Michelle Aponte has worked at the Restorative Justice Community Courts for nearly four years. I am passionate about creating opportunities for accountability, healing, and growth. Throughout Michelle's time here, Michelle has remained deeply committed to helping participants succeed. Aponte is proud to have built a strong track record of graduates completing the program and moving forward with a clean slate. Aponte is certified in Adult Mental Health, which strengthens Aponte's ability to understand the challenges participants face and offer tailored, compassionate support.



#### DR. NICOLE M. BING

Dr. Nicole M. Bing, Ph.D., CCC-SLP is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Disorders at Governors State University. She teaches courses in child language, literacy, and speech disorders, and supervises student clinicians in community-based clinical settings. Dr. Bing's research focuses on narrative and expository language, connections between spoken language and reading comprehension in school-age children, and evidence-based language interventions for school-age children. Her research also explores multicultural issues and the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in CSD and other allied health programs.



#### PRESIDENT MARCO BOUCHARD

President Marco Bouchard former magistrate and former lecturer at the University of Eastern Piedmont. Author of numerous publications for Giuffré, UTET, Bruno Mondatori (Offesa e riparazione 2005, Sul perdono 2008), Edizioni Gruppo Abele (Credere e appartenere 2014, 5 variazioni sul credere 2017), Il Melangolo (Vittime al bivio 2021), Giuffré (La giustizia riparativa, 2024), Bollati Boringhieri (Vittime del giusto e dell'ingiusto, 2025). Since 2018 he has been president of Rete Dafne Italia, a national network of services to assist victims of crime.



#### JAH'MIAA BROOKS

Jah'Miaa Brooks is a recent graduate from the public administration and restorative justice program at Governors State University. Brooks is a mother of amazing little young who has special powers.

Brook's dream job is to be Grand Council women for the United Nations.



#### **VALERIE BUTRÓN**

Valerie Butrón is an educator, author, and co-owner of Tumbao Bilingual Books, a company dedicated to creating inclusive bilingual children's literature that reflects multiethnic and multilingual families. With experience as both a teacher and administrator, she has led initiatives such as schoolwide restorative practices and now provides professional development on a wide range of topics to school districts across the U.S.

Valerie teaches at the University of St. Francis, Governors State University, and Prairie State College, and has shared her expertise at state, national, and international conferences, including the International Colloquium on Languages, Cultures, and Identity in Schools and Society in Soria, Spain. Committed to building community beyond the classroom, she founded the Crete Community Runners Association, a nonprofit promoting well-being through free events. An accomplished ultramarathoner, she inspires others with her dedication both on and off the trail.



#### PRISCILA CARVALHO

Priscila Carvalho is a Federal Prosecutor in São Paulo. Former Prosecutor for the Municipality of São Paulo. Law degree from the USP School of Law (2001). With training in the area of Restorative Justice and qualified as a facilitator in peace-building circles. Member of the structuring committee of the Agreements Sector of the Public Prosecutor's Office in SP. President of the Commission for the Prevention and Confrontation of Moral Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Discrimination of the Public Prosecutor's Office in the State of São Paulo. Pedagogical advisor at the Superior School of the Public Ministry of the Union, in the area of Restorative Justice (since 2022), and in the area of Prevention and Confrontation of Harassment and Discrimination in the institutional environment (2024). Member of the Permanent Center for Encouraging Self-Composition of the Federal Prosecutors Office.



#### ALFRED LACKS-CARTER

Alfred Lacks-Carter, Jr. is the grandson of Henrietta Lacks, the woman whose cancer cells, known as HeLa cells, were instrumental in many medical breakthroughs. He is involved in preserving her legacy, educating the public about her story, and promoting social justice and health equity. He is also the author of the memoir "Shadows of Immortality," which chronicles his journey and his family's experiences and the CEO/Founder of The Henrietta House located in Chicago.



#### DR. ERICA CEKA

Dr. Erica Ceka is an Assistant Professor at Governors State University, where she teaches graduate courses in public and nonprofit management. She earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Northern Illinois University in 2019. Dr. Ceka's research focuses on the performance and resilience of public and nonprofit organizations during economic downturns, with an emphasis on public budgeting and organizational adaptation. She also co-authored several studies on public perceptions of wrongful convictions, contributing to the discourse on justice reform and equity-focused policy. Her recent scholarship has been published in respected journals, including International Review of Public Administration, Journal of Public Affairs Education, Public Organization Review, Nonprofit Management and Leadership, International Journal of Public Administration, The Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology, and Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management. Dr. Ceka is President-Elect of the Greater Chicago Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, demonstrating her commitment to professional service and leadership development in the field of public affairs.



#### DR. NATALIE COLEMAN

Dr. Natalie Coleman is a Military Veteran, TED-Ed Innovative Educator, nonprofit founder, and former elected official committed to advancing education, leadership, and community empowerment. She currently serves as the Secondary Education Committee Chair and University Lecturer at Governors State University.

As the founder of a nonprofit organization focused on STEAM education, Dr. Coleman has created pathways for underserved and underrepresented youth to access high-quality, culturally responsive learning experiences. Her innovative approach to education has earned her recognition as part of the global TED-Ed Innovative Educator community.

During her time in public office, Dr. Coleman championed policies supporting educational equity, small business development, and veterans' rights — fueled by her military service and passion for community advancement.

Today, she continues to lead initiatives that foster innovation, build inclusive opportunities, and empower future leaders. Whether in the classroom, the boardroom, or on stage, Dr. Coleman is driven by a mission to inspire change and create spaces where everyone can thrive.



#### DORI COLLINS

Dori Collins earned her degree from Tennessee State University, where she earned her undergraduate degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology, which impressed upon her the importance of multi-disciplinary approaches to learning. Her later experiences with Chicago Public Schools and Head Start programs heightened her sensitivity to the rights of parents with Diverse Learners.

She previously served as Co-Chair of the Englewood Community Action Council and Champion for the Education and Youth Task Force for the Englewood Quality of Life Plan. Dori continues to serve as a Community Strategist and Development consultant with major brand companies and Community Based organizations and considers herself an Advocate that empowers Parent Leaders across the City of Chicago that will be the Change Agents the City of Chicago deserves.



#### DEBORA TEIXEIRA DA CRUZ

Debora Teixeira da Cruz holds a Ph.D. in Health and Development (UFMS) and a Master's in Bioethics (UNIVAS). She specialized in Conflict Mediation (IFSULDEMINAS) and earned degrees in Radiology (UNIFENAS), Psychology (UNIVAS), Pedagogy (Unigran), and Law (Unigran Capital).

She is a full member (Chair 18) of the Brazilian Academy of Radiological Sciences and serves as Associate Editor for Psychology and Behavioral Sciences at PECIBES (Hospital Universitário Maria Aparecida Pedrossian, UFMS) and for the Brazilian Journal of Radiation Technology Research. She also reviews for several journals, including the Brazilian Journal of Health Research (UFES) and Interdisciplinary Studies on Aging (UFRGS).

Dr. Cruz coordinates the Radiology CST program, supervises Psychology internships, and teaches in health programs at UNIGRAN Educacional (on campus and online). She also leads the Inter- and Transdisciplinary Extension Center for Paid Internships and Employability, and serves on the UNIGRAN Educacional Biosafety Commission.

Nationally, she is an ad hoc evaluator for course authorization and recognition at INEP/MEC, a member of the ENADE Advisory Commission (INEP/MEC/SINAES), and participates in the CONTER Resolutions Reformulation Chamber (CERR/CONTER). She is also a member of the Research Ethics Committee at the University Center of Grande Dourados, the UniSustainable Network, the Parliamentary Front for the Rights of the Elderly in Mato Grosso do Sul, and the National Education Commission (CONAE/CONTER). Her professional experience includes course coordination, academic and scientific advising, internship supervision, and work psychodynamics. She is also an author and editor of academic books.



#### MICHAEL A. DAVIS II

Michael A. Davis II is a resilient combat veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and healthcare leader whose journey reflects unwavering dedication to service and excellence. As a U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman deployed with the 8th Engineering Support Battalion during Operation Enduring Freedom, Michael demonstrated courage and leadership under fire. Wounded during a combat logistical patrol, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, and Navy Achievement Medal, among numerous letters of commendation, for his valor and exceptional service in the line of duty.

While actively serving, Michael pursued his education through Southern Illinois University—Carbondale, earning a Bachelor of Applied Science in Health Care Management via distance learning. His transition from the battlefield to the federal healthcare system was seamless. With a strong foundation in military logistics and operations, he applied his talents to roles within the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services, excelling as a management analyst. His expertise spans healthcare administration, finance, logistics, and policy.

Michael furthered his academic journey with a Master's in Conflict Resolution from Dominican University and is currently pursuing an Ed.D. in Interdisciplinary Leadership at Governors State University. His drive to serve continues through leadership in both the public and private sectors.

He is the CEO of WarDawgs Logistics LLC and the founder of the Corpsman Up Foundation—a nonprofit dedicated to supporting veterans' mental health by bridging faith-based approaches with modern mental healthcare. Michael's mission is clear: to uplift and empower those who've borne the burden of battle by ensuring holistic care, transitional housing, and long-term support. Michael A. Davis II's life is a powerful testament to resilience, purpose, and the ability to transform trauma into triumph, continuing his legacy of leadership from the battlefield.



#### KAYLA T. MOORE

Kayla T. Moore (she/her) is a passionate community engagement practitioner and advocate for equity in research and education. She serves as Outreach and Engagement Manager at the Institute for Population and Precision Health at the University of Chicago and Engagement Lead for the Illinois Precision Medicine Consortium in the NIH All of Us Research Program. Dedicated to amplifying underrepresented voices, Kayla's work focuses on improving health outcomes in minority populations and expanding clinical research participation among historically excluded groups, particularly Black Americans.

She is pursuing a PhD in Community Health Sciences at the UIC School of Public Health, where she also earned her MPH and was inducted into the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. A proud Southside Chicago native, Kayla is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and performs with Muntu Dance Theatre, reflecting her deep commitment to community, culture, and advocacy.



#### CHIEF JUDGE MOSTAFA MOHAMED HELMY AHMED EL-SHERIF

Chief Judge Mostafa Mohamed Helmy Ahmed El-sherif is a highly experienced Chief Judge at the Court of Appeal in Egypt, with over 20 years of distinguished service in the judicial system. Besides, I serve as a Judicial Member at the Supreme Permanent Committee of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where I was responsible to handle legal memos and conducts fact-finding missions related to human rights violations.

my extensive career includes pivotal roles such as Judicial Member at the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Justice, and as Chief Judge at the Bureau of National Security. my work has involved managing international legal cooperation, reviewing national security cases, and developing judicial strategies.

I hold an LLM in Advanced Legal Studies from Warwick University, a Graduate Diploma in Comparative and International Law from the American University in Cairo, and an LLB from Assiut University. I also have completed specialized courses in public policy, ADR, International Criminal Law, and international humanitarian law.

Currently pursuing a PhD focused on enhancing Alternative Dispute Resolution in the international criminal justice framework, I am an active contributor to ADR, having mediated various cases in the USA. I am also blessed as having presented at prestigious conferences, including the American Bar Association conference on ADR and the UN Women's Young Women Peacebuilding Program.

I am native Arabic, fluent in English, pre-intermediate in French, and I am a Chevening Scholar, and I have been recognized as the best prosecutor in my jurisdiction as a public prosecutor. my dedication to legal excellence and human rights makes me a fit participant to participate in the valuable International Restorative Justice Conference and make it unmissable opportunity for me.



#### MOHAMMAD Z. FAIZAAN

Mohammad Z. Faizaan is a medical student at Rush Medical College originally from New York City with a strong interest in community building, student wellbeing, and equity in medicine. In addition to serving as Co-President of the Rush Muslim Association, he currently serves as one of the Co-Presidents of the Rush Restorative Justice Initiative, an organization towards the advancement of Restorative Justice within RUSH University Medical Center.



#### **HUMBERTO FILPI**

Humberto Filpi is a Doctoral Candidate in the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), in the area of International Law and Sustainability. Master in Law from the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), in the area of International Law and Sustainability (2019). Specialist in Civil Procedural Law (2018). Bachelor of Law from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (2015). Member of the Research Group on Environmental Law in the Risk Society (GPDAUFSCCNPq). Member of the Extension Project Clinic of Ecological Justice (UFSC). Member of the Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment (GNHRE) and the Observatory of Ecological and Climate Litigation in Latin America. Researcher at the JUST-Side Network (Programa Iberoamericano de Ciencia y Tecnología). Specialist in the United Nations Harmony with Nature Program. Lawyer registered in the OAB/SC.



#### CLAUDIO FONTANA

Claudio Fontana is a philosopher (graduated in Philosophy in Milan and postgraduate in Pavia), teacher (History and Philosophy to two generations of students), mediator (recognised by the Ministry of Justice with the title of "Expert Mediator" and "Trainer in Restorative Justice"), photographer and swimmer. Member of CeSGReM (Centre for Restorative Justice and Mediation Studies) of the University of Insubria in Como, member of the Register of Qualified Trainers EFRJ (European Forum of RJ), member of the Technical Scientific Committee of the C.I.M.F.M. (Italian Centre for Mediation and Mediation Training- Bologna) He works in the field of mediation and restorative justice in criminal cases (especially juvenile). He has given courses on conflict management and RJ to primary and secondary schools, to managers, to prisoners and prison police. He has lectured at the University of Insubria's advanced courses for mediators.



#### **GIAN LUIGI GATTA**

Gian Luigi Gatta is Professor of Criminal Law at the School of Law of the University of Milan, Department of Law "Cesare Beccaria". He has written and taught in the area of substantive criminal law. He is the President of the Italian Association of Criminal Law Professors (AIPDP).

He obtained his degree in Law at the University of Milan in 2001. Following his graduation, he obtained the Italian bar admission and worked as a lawyer at a renowned law firm in Milan, mainly in the field of white-collar crimes.

He served as a research fellow and then as an associate professor of Criminal Law at the University of Milan from 2005 to 2016. Since 1st December 2016, he has been serving as a full professor of Criminal Law at the same University. Between 1st October 2017 and 31st September 2023, he served as the Head of the "Cesare Beccaria" Law Department. From 2015 to 2016 and from 2020 to 2023 he was, in addition, a member of the Academic Senate of the University of Milan.

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, he was visiting scholar at the Cornell University — Law School (Ithaca, NY, U.S.A.). In 2018, he was visiting professor at the Beijing Normal University, Law School. In 2022, he was visiting scholar at the Universidad Diego Portales of Santiago de Chile.

From January 2020 to March 2024, he was appointed by the Italian Minister of Justice as a member of the Board of the directors of the Italian School for the Judiciary (Vice President from March 2023 to March 2024). Before and after this appointment, he has been invited many times as a lecturer by the Italian School for the Judiciary.

From February 2021 to October 2022, he was appointed as the legal Advisor of the Italian Minister of Justice Prof. Marta Cartabia. He was the Vice President of the Minister of Justice's Commission on the 2021/2022 reform on criminal justice system and restorative justice.



#### REBECCA GIRANI

Rebecca Girani graduated with honors in Law at the University of Bologna (supervisor: Prof. Stefano Canestrari) on 3 May 2018. She is a PhD in Legal Sciences. Girani was Research Fellow in criminal law at the University of Bologna from 2022 to 2024 and now she is an Adjunct Professor in criminal law at the same University. Girani currently focus her research on subjects in corporate criminal law, with specific reference to de facto directors. Girani also explored the topic of the restorative justice. She participated in numerous conferences and seminars on criminal law including: September 17, 2022 "Le coordinate della giustizia riparativa nell'ordinamento nazionale e sovranazionale" presso l'Aula 10, Palazzo Malvezzi, Bologna, December 22, 2022 "La giustizia riparativa si può applicare ai reati ambientali?", Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza, Sassari, May 3, 2024 "Le forme della giustizia: riparazione" l'Aula Segni, Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza, Sassari; May 6, 2024 "Giustizia riparativa e violenza sessuale" l'Aula 1 Palazzo Hercolani, Dipartimento di Sociologia e Diritto dell'economia, Bologna.

She published some notes on restorative justice (R. GIRANI, M. BOTTO, Luci e ombre della giustizia riparativa, con particolare riferimento al contesto della violenza domestica, in Rivista Cammino diritto, 6 novembre 2023).

Since 27 November 2020 she has been qualified to practice law and is registered with the Bologna Bar Association.



#### FERNANDO JAYME

Fernando Jayme graduated in Law from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) in 1992. At the same university, he obtained his master's and doctoral degrees in Law in 1999 and 2003, respectively. He is an Associate Professor at UFMG's Faculty of Law, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses. In addition to his teaching and research activities, he is involved in extension and academic administration tasks. He coordinates the Ciranda Restorative Justice Program, supervises the activities of interns in the Legal Assistance Division (DAJ) and serves as the Coordinator of the Special Collegiate Program for Indigenous Students. He has experience as a lawyer and as a facilitator of restorative justice. As a representative of UFMG, he currently serves as the vice-president of the State Council for the Defense of Human Rights of Minas Gerais (CONEDH).



#### SIDNEY JOHNSON

Sidney Johnson, LCSW, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker based in Chicago, Illinois, offering both virtual and in-person therapy sessions. He specializes in treating complex trauma, PTSD, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and stress management. His therapeutic approach is strength-based and trauma-informed, emphasizing empathy, active listening, and empowering clients to take personal responsibility for their growth. He utilizes various modalities, including Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), narrative therapy, mindfulness, and art therapy Sidney holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Arizona State University and completed his clinical training on the south side of Chicago . He has over 25 years of experience in the field of social work, with two years of clinical experience . He works with a diverse clientele, including adolescents (12+), emerging adults (16–24), adults, seniors, and groups.



#### DR. SHANIQUA JONES

Dr. Shaniqua Jones, affectionately known as Dr. J, is a global leader and expert Restorative Justice Practitioner committed to healing and transformation. With a unique ability to connect deeply with both those harmed and those who have caused harm, Dr. J uses restorative practices to dismantle systemic barriers and foster community accountability and care.

She earned her doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership, specializing in Higher Education, in 2016. Recognized as a 40 Under 40 rising leader in 2018, Dr. Jones went on to found Purple Path in 2019—a for-profit organization that provides sustainable resources to help communities build competencies, relationships, and social capital.

Dr. J has served in numerous roles, including Director of Community Engagement at Trinity Christian College, and was appointed to the Illinois State Board of Education's Whole Child Task Force by Governor Pritzker. She's led restorative initiatives in schools, churches, law enforcement agencies, and state departments, educating thousands through her work with Purple Path and the Jones Academy of Excellence. In 2024, she became a TEDx speaker, further expanding her impact.

As a dedicated wife, mother of five, and caregiver to her husband on his long healing journey, Dr. Jones brings a personal understanding of health equity and the power of advocacy. Through Chicago Integrated Health and Purple Path, she champions access, empathy, and wellness for all.

Grounded, purpose-driven, and always ready to walk alongside others, Dr. J is not just leading a movement—she is the movement.



#### **ADAM JURAS**

Adam Juras is the assistant to the judge of the Supreme court of the Czech Republic. Juras is also a doctoral student at Faculty of Law, Masaryk University, Department of Legal theory with focus on Restorative Justice.

Juras is the lead researcher in project Perception of Restorative Justice by the Czech Public - Empirical Research.

Juras Intern at Permanent mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other International.

Juras was an Academic Visitor for the period at Australian National University, active collaboration with local academic staff on the project "Restorative justice for survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence."



#### DR. MARGARET KULUJIAN

Dr. Margaret Kulujian Ph.D. is a community psychologist, mediator, and the Restorative Justice Community Court Coordinator in Cook County. She has been a key figure in promoting restorative justice in the court system.

Margaret has been involved in all phases of the Restorative Justice Community Courts from proposal development, community engagement, strategic planning, and budgeting.

For 18 years Margaret Kulujian was a host and a program producer at the Polish Radio and TV in Chicago. She covered local politics, community life, and important issues such as gentrification, poverty, social justice, and education.

She started an annual Polish-American Women's Conference, which featured women of Polish heritage discussing their perspective on education, leadership, and business. The conference was recognized by the City Council of the City of Chicago and was given a resolution.

Ms. Kulujian's influence extends beyond her professional role. She is a board member of the Chicago Sister Cities Committee, Board member of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, and a member of the Polish Parade Committee.

In 2022 she received the Chicago Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award, which is given each year to a non-lawyer who has made a contribution to the administration of justice.



#### JOSÉ RUBENS MORATO LEITE

José Rubens Morato Leite is a Professor of Law at the Federal University of Santa Catarina - UFSC; Post-Doctorate from the University of Alicante, Spain 2013/4; Post-Doctorate from the Centre of Environmental Law, Macquarie University - Sydney - Australia 2005/6; Member and Consultant of IUCN - The World Conservation Union - Commission on Environmental Law (Steering Committee); Elected Member of the Governing Board of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law (2015 to 2018); Former President of the Institute "Law for a Green Planet" (2013-2018); Coordinator of the Research Group on Environmental Law and Political Ecology in Risk Society, of CNPq/UFSC.



#### PROFESSOR GIUSEPPE LOSAPPIO

Professor Giuseppe Losappio was born in Naples and currently resides in the south of Italy. Full Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Bari "Aldo Moro," where was the head of the Master's Program in Corporate Criminal Law and the Master's Program in Money Laundering & Tax Law. He was previously acted as a consultant for the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry on Medical Errors (2009—2013) and the Justice Commission of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and Senate (2019 and 2024). He has been a visiting scholar at several universities in England and Scotland and is a member of the scientific committee of numerous legal journals. Professor Losappio is the author of five monographs, an essay on the Italian university system, and over 140 articles and book chapters, some of which have been translated into Chinese, English, Portuguese, Spanish, and German.



#### SHANA LOUALLEN

Shana Louallen (she/they) permanently shifted into the human services industry in 2008.

Shana has spent years, both locally and abroad, working with youth-based organizations, community stakeholders, and organizers in supporting on-the-ground advocacy to create impactful changes.

After earning several awards and fellowships over the years for the advancement of anti-racist, anti-oppressive work through a restorative and transformative justice lens, they continue to hold an abolitionist framework that seeks to deconstruct power and punishment paradigms.

Currently, Shana helps clients actualize these frameworks through an intersection of racial justice & restorative practices in the workplace and as a way of life. As a consultant, she engages schools, organizations, and communities in strategic planning & action-taking on transformative culture shifts. These shifts center trauma-informed models, equitable policies, and uplift stakeholder voices. She also offers expert-level, anti-racist executive coaching for existing business teams as well as entrepreneurs looking to break into social innovation.

In that vein, Shana also supports organizations invested in building out diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) initiatives reflective of shared power, and collaborative decision-making.

Shana is currently the Owner and Principal Consultant of Ark + Moonlight, a specialty firm for organizational development and leadership coaching. They are also the host of a wellness podcast, "The Best Friend Divorce." She is based in New York City.



#### T MCDANIEL

T McDaniel (she/her) joined OSEL in August of the 2023 school year as the Manager of Restorative Justice Practices. She entered this role with fourteen years of experience as a restorative practitioner and ten years of experience as an educator. Prior to this position, T worked for NewRoot Learning Institute, formerly known as Umoja, supporting school communities with whole-school restorative justice (RJ) implementation and creating and facilitating professional learning for adults. T was pivotal in creating "Foundations of Restorative Practices for Security and Discipline Leads, "which is offered to all CPS Security and Discipline Leads district-wide. T supported school communities within Chicago Public Schools as the Head of Security, Dean of Students, and Culture and Climate Interventions. During this time, she was also responsible for leading the PBIS program, the Student Voice Committee, and the Culture and Climate team, as well as supporting the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. She was introduced to Restorative Justice as a correctional officer at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center. T attended Lewis University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership. Later, she earned a Certificate in School Discipline and Reform from Loyola University. "Restorative Justice is not a response to hurt and harm. It is not a disciplinary strategy to address challenging behaviors. It is a mindset, a way of life, a way of being in relationship with others, that meets and anticipates needs. It is a culture."



#### JUDGE MARIA FERNANDA MOURA E SOUZA

Judge Maria Fernanda Moura e Souza is a Federal Judge, graduated and Specialist in Human Rights at Law School of the University of São Paulo; president of CEAMA - commission for the prevention and confrontation of moral harassment, sexual harassment and discrimination in the judicial section of São Paulo and coordinator of the Micromanagement Committee of Restorative Justice at the Federal Regional Court of the Third Region.



#### JANET MURDOCK

Janet Murdock recently retired after 30+ years in conflict resolution internationally - mostly Latin America and 15 years in the United Nations, mainly as a Peace and Development Advisor and/or Manager of Conflict Resolution and Restorative Justice projects in Oceania, West Africa and Latin America.



#### JOÃO DELFIM DE AGUIAR NADAES

João Delfim de Aguiar Nadaes is a psychologist with a Master's degree in Mediation from the Latin American European Master's in Mediation and Negotiation at the University of Buenos Aires, Institut Universitaire Kurt Bosh (Switzerland), and the Civil Association Postgraduate Program (Argentina). He holds a Master's degree in Philosophy from UGF, obtained in 1997. He has been working as a Legal Psychologist at SEAP-RJ since 1993. Since 2018, he has been working at CAPMA of SEAP with Gr. Refl. de Aut. de VDF. e Fac. He has been a mediator since 2017 and is part of the Mediators' Board of the Court of Justice of the State of Rio de Janeiro.



#### **NATALIA NEVES**

Natalia Neves graduated in Languages and Law in the Federal University of Uberlandia (Brazil). Postdoctoral fellow in Law at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) developing research on the following topics: restorative justice; children and adolescents in conflict with law, social justice, restorative justice and social assistance.



#### DR. CAMILLE BYRD O'QUIN

Dr. Camille Byrd O'Quin, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, has over 25 years of experience as a Speech-Language Pathologist, working across private practice, hospitals, clinics, home health, public and private schools, and special education cooperatives. She specializes in serving African American students and families in urban communities, with a research focus on how PK-12 educators perceive African American Vernacular English (AAVE) and the tools they need to distinguish AAVE from a disorder.

A dedicated advocate for culturally and linguistically diverse learners, Dr. O'Quin has provided testimonials before the Illinois House of Representatives and U.S. Congressional Legislators. She is the Immediate Past President of the Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL) for the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and serves on multiple Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ISHA) committees, including DEI and Multicultural Topics.

Dr. O'Quin is an Assistant Professor in the Communication Disorders Department at Governors State University and the founder of MixEdInclusion, LLC, a consulting company focused on special education administration and speech-language services in Black and Brown urban communities. Her work extends to clinical education and graduate-level teaching.

She has delivered a TED Talk, The Impact of Linguistic Bias, and presents at national and international conferences on topics including AAVE, disproportionality in special education, and culturally responsive teaching in urban education. Dr. O'Quin holds licensure with the Illinois State Board of Education as a Speech-Language Pathologist and Director of Special Education, as well as certifications from American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR).



#### DR. DON PARKER

Dr. Don Parker is a transformational keynote speaker and professional development provider. He specializes in social emotional learning, supporting teachers to build trusting relationships with students, restorative practices, trauma-informed practices, and improving the culture and climate of schools to inspire both students and teachers to reach their full potential.

Dr. Parker is a former principal and served at Posen School in Posen, IL where he improved the school's culture and climate, staff collaboration, parent engagement, and student achievement. Before that, he was the principal of Lincoln Avenue School, a K-8 school in Dolton, IL, where he improved the culture, implemented a resilience program for underprivileged youth, managed the implementation of restorative justice, and increased attendance and student achievement.

Dr. Parker has a strong belief in creating a school climate in which the entire staff strives for excellence to meet the academic and social emotional needs of each student. He has presented throughout the United States at distinguished educational conferences and has trained and inspired thousands of educators after facilitating his workshops at hundreds of schools.

Dr. Parker is also a TedX speaker and had the distinguished honor of speaking at the prestigious TedX Arlington Heights "Making Moves" event, where he delivered a dynamic and thought-provoking talk.

He is considered one of the top authorities on school discipline and expert on helping teachers to build trusting relationships with students, and recognized as one of the most scholarly, accomplished, engaging, and energetic education keynote speakers in the United States, solidifying his reputation as a powerful voice for positive transformation.

Dr. Parker is also the author of two Best Selling books — "Building Bridges: Engaging Students At-Risk Through the Power of Relationships" and "Be the Driving Force: Leading Your School on the Road to Equity".



#### DR. JOI F. PATTERSON

Dr. Joi F. Patterson is Chief of Institutional Engagement and Excellence at Governors State University, where she leads initiatives that advance inclusive excellence, student success, and community engagement. With over 30 years of experience in P—12 and higher education, she has served as Vice President of Academic Affairs, Superintendent, and Department Chair, and taught from middle school to graduate seminars. A national leader and advocate for equity, Dr. Patterson co-hosts Teaching and Leading with Dr. Amy and Dr. Joi, has secured over \$5M in grants, and was honored with the 2024 HEED Award for Higher Education Equity and Diversity.



#### PROFESSOR CHIARA PERINI

Professor Chiara Perini is Full Professor of Criminal Law at Insubria University (Italy), where she teaches also Restorative Justice and Penal Mediation, Environmental Criminal Law and Business Criminal Law.

She contributed to the founding of the Restorative Justice and Mediation Studies Centre (RJMSC) at the same University and is a member of the Center's Scientific Council.

She was co-chair during the first term (2020-2022) of the Working Group on Environmental Restorative Justice established at the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ).

She is also a lawyer at the Milan Bar (Italy).

With regard to the field of interest here, she focuses her research activity on the relationship between criminal law and restorative justice and environmental restorative justice. On these topics she has presented several papers at national and international conferences and written numerous publications.



#### PROFESSOR JOE RICE

Professor Joe Rice is a Criminology Instructor at DePaul University, a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) at Cook County Jail, and U.S. Army veteran. His teaching philosophy and clinical approach are rooted in the ancient wisdom tradition of restorative justice, namely the sacred practice of peace circles.



#### DR. TONYA S. ROBERSON

Dr. Tonya S. Roberson is a Community Psychologist currently working as a University Lecturer/ Director of Community Engagement, Program Development and Academic Support at Governors State University in the College of Health and Human Services. She is the CEO/Founder of Helping Communities Help Themselves: It's A family Affair NFP.

Dr. Roberson is a public health expert and has vast knowledge in clinical research, culturally tailoring initiatives, community engagement and practice, survey design, extensive research recruitment, independent consulting, and evaluation. This experience is backed by twenty- five years of clinical nutrition/food service systems management experience which was acquired in large academic medical centers, healthcare organizations and community-based settings. She has a particular expertise in methods to address health disparities and inequities, health promotion theories, and strategies to assess a holistic approach to health which considers the whole person in the urban centers. Dr. Roberson is well connected and trusted in the Chicagoland communities and many other large USA cities and is committed to giving generously of her time and talents through her community organizing efforts and outreach work to educate, empower and inspire individuals to be their own health.



#### LAÍS HERMSDORFF - ROHEM

Laís Hermsdorff is a lawyer and court-appointed mediator in Brazil, with over 12 years of experience in Family and Corporate Law. A member of the International Mediation Council, her mission is to contribute to a culture of peace by fostering more conscious and collaborative relationships.



#### **JUDGE KATIA RONCADA**

Katia Roncada is a Federal Judge who has been working with social relevance cases since 2002. She has been a part of the CNJ Restorative Justice Committee since 2020 and since September 2023 she has been working as the Assistant Judge to the Chief Justice of Brazil on Restorative Justice matters.

"Creating Along" is a diverse network of over 400 women advancing female leadership in Brazil's Restorative Justice movement. Uniting judges, prosecutors, facilitators, and community members, the group fosters collaboration across regions and sectors to amplify women's voices, promote inclusion, and shape transformative, gender-aware approaches to restorative practices nationwide.

She is currently pursuing a Masters in Restorative Justice at Eastern Mennonite University. She has a MBA in Public Management from FGVSP, in Brazil, and has participated in several training courses in Restorative Justice (RJ). She is a facilitator of Peacemaking Circles.

In 2019, she implemented, in partnership, the São Paulo Restorative Justice Center - CEJURE, the first Center of a Federal Judicial Section, cultivating awareness and training for RJ at Tribunal Regional Federal da Terceira Região (Federal Court), with the proposal of transforming coexistence in the institutional environment through the Creating Connections project and the application of RJ in disciplinary administrative procedures, as well as in the end area.

She coordinated the 1st International Seminar on JR and the Environment and the Seminar on Restorative Justice and People with Disabilities.



#### DR. WAYNE ROPER

Dr. Wayne Roper's professional journey is characterized by his dedication to continuous learning and community service. He possesses a Certified Forensic Interviewer Certificate (CFI) and Level I and II Interviewer certificates from Wicklander-Zulawski and Associates. Dr. Roper is an active member of the International Organization of Black Security Executives (IOBSE), the American Society of Criminology (ASC), and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS). His involvement in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and community service programs, such as the OMEGA Academy for male youth mentoring, reflects his dedication to social action. Dr. Roper's role as a National Co-Lead in the Community Engagement Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee highlights his commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive environment. Dr. Roper's passion for investigations and studying criminal and deviant behavior enhances his teaching approach, allowing students to provide practical insights and theoretical knowledge.



#### **EBONI RUCKER**

Eboni Rucker is an educator who has been working in the field of Education for the last 18 years. She has worked in various capacities in the realm of education from private specialized centers for autism in Chicago, Illinois and Cincinnati, Ohio to public middle and high schools in the Chicagoland area. She attended Lincoln College, Eastern Illinois University, University of Phoenix and Governors State University. Eboni has a vigorous background in education, training in Applied Behavior Analysis, Social and Emotional Learning and Restorative Justice.

With a passion for supporting at-risk students, she has spent the last 8 years as a Restorative Justice Practitioner & SEL Coordinator for a high school in the Chicagoland area. Restorative Rucker assisted in the creation of a school wide model that replaced in school suspension model with a period by period model that is exclusively based upon the practices of RJE. She is a member of the Chicago City Wide Restorative Justice Committee and PEACE S2 — People Engaged in Advancement of Community Enrichment in the South Suburbs.

Restorative Rucker is also an educational consultant for Mindful Practices, where she works to assist all educators from special education classroom assistants to superintendents and school boards across the United State earn a CASEL approved certification in Social and Emotional Learning.

Eboni is also a proud member of the National Education Association (NEA) and Illinois Education Association (IEA) where she has been an elected delegate of the NEA and IEA Representative Assembly 2020-2025. She has attended the NEAs Conference on Racial and Social Justice, presented at the 2023 Educational Support Professionals Conference, The 1st National Conference on Restorative Justices in Education in Brazil and the 2024 NEA Leadership Summit.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, traveling, watching sports, volunteering and spending time with her family who all are huge football fans.



#### DR. JOAO SALM

Dr. Joao Salm is currently Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Governors State University. Completed a PhD in justice studies in the School of Justice and Social Inquiry at Arizona State University. He pursued research on restorative justice principles and practices in court settings. Prof. Salm also has a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in law.



#### HONORALBLE COLLEEN F. SHEEHAN

The Honorable Colleen F. Sheehan (Ret.) served as a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County from 2000 to 2019, primarily in the Juvenile Justice Division. She led the creation of Cook County's Restorative Justice Community Court and served on multiple Illinois Supreme Court committees. Judge Sheehan now continues her work in restorative and juvenile justice as a consultant with ReDeploy Illinois.



#### DR. NICOLA SELVAGGI

Dr. Nicola Selvaggi is Associate Professor of Criminal Law and Director of the Research Center on preventive measures and organized crime (CeRPEC) at the Department of Law and Economics of the "Mediterranea" University of Reggio Calabria (Italy).

Nicola is also Senior Fellow at the Carol and Lawrence Center on Business Ethics Research of the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. In 2018, he was Global Research Fellow, Hauser Global Law School Program, at the New York University.

He has been Gastwissenschaftler at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law of Freiburg i. Br. and worked on numerous international research projects, collaborating with Italian and foreign Universities such as Paris "Sorbonne", "Castilla-La Mancha" of Toledo, "Waseda" of Tokio and the Max Planck Institute.

Nicola Selvaggi was advisor to the Italian Senate Committee on Justice Affairs (since 2016) and has also been several times appointed as expert in meetings and intergovernmental working groups at UNODC (United Nations on Drugs and Organized Crime), OECD and the European Commission.



#### CÁSSIA DA SILVA SOUZA

Cássia da Silva Souza built a career marked by commitment to social justice, promotion of human rights, and education. She graduated in Pedagogy and Law, and worked simultaneously in both professional areas. She also served as a mediator for the Court of Justice of the State of Rio de Janeiro. Cássia da Silva Souza built a career marked by commitment to social justice, promotion of human rights, and education. She graduated in Pedagogy and Law, and worked simultaneously in both professional areas. She also served as a mediator for the Court of Justice of the State of Rio de Janeiro.



#### DR. WOODMAN TAYLOR

Dr. Woodman Taylor is an educator, librarian, curator and musician whose practices negotiate across multiple cultural spheres. After initially studying Ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University and working as a curator of South Asian and Islamic art at the Harvard University Art Museums, his interest turned to Art History, ultimately receiving a PhD from the University of Chicago. Dr. Taylor has taught at the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois Chicago, Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, the American University in Dubai, and Zayed University on both Dubai and Abu Dhabi campuses as Professor of Art History. In 2023, he was a consulting curator for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival of Creative Encounters: Living Religions in U.S. for which he arranged to have Chicago's DJ Duane Powell present his Sunday Service of House Music. After returning to Chicago, Dr. Taylor joined Governors State University as Adjunct Professor of Art History.



#### HELEN WASHINGTON-POWELL

Helen Washington-Powell is a PhD candidate and a former GovState Alum. She has worked throughout Chicagoland within the City of Chicago, Office of Violence Prevention, the Will County Probation Division, and as a part of the Catholic partnerships supporting the mentally ill and the disabled population.

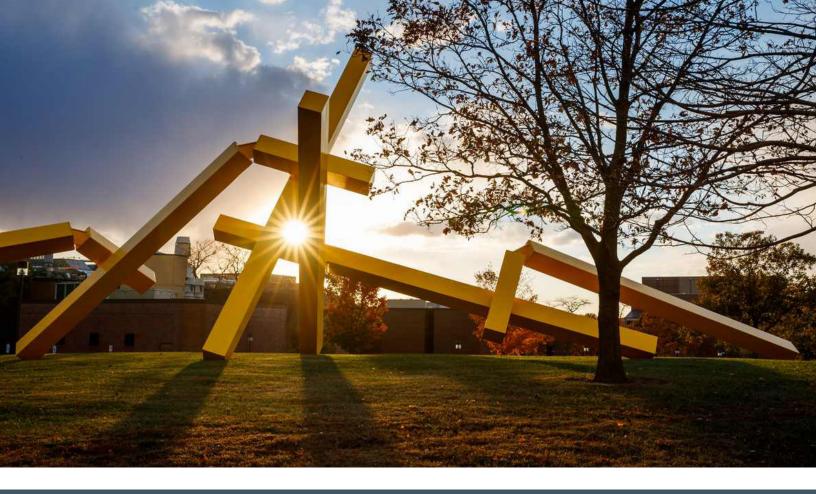
While working in these capacities she helped to channel equity and diversity through work, education and lived experiences. While doing so, she garnered a passionate interest in Restorative Justice and. traveled to Italy and Africa speaking on topics in RJ. In addition to these experiences, she developed her expertise in several disciplines such as environmental justice and history as part of tailoring the RJ framework as a more inclusive and conclusive practice across sectors.



#### **CLAIRE ZUPAN**

Claire Zupan is a case manager at the Restorative Justice Community Court in Cook County, Illinois. Zupan earned my Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Sociology from St. Ambrose University, and she is currently pursuing my Master of Social Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign set for graduation December of this year.

In Zuapn's role, she supports program participants by helping them navigate the justice system, access education, and build healthier paths forward. I have a strong background in community service, leadership, and working with individuals with disabilities, and is certified in Adult Mental Health First Aid.



## RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATION



#### DR. JAMES R. "CHIP" COLDREN JR.

Dr. James R. "Chip" Coldren, Jr., Ph.D. serves as a Senior Fellow in the Center for Justice Research and Innovation at CNA, in the Institute for Public Research. He began is work at CNA as a Principal Scientist in the Center in 2009. He is an experienced program evaluator with over 40 years of research and evaluation experience in law enforcement, juvenile justice, and corrections. He is the Advisor for several national technical assistance and training programs in the areas of policing and corrections, and has been the Principal Investigator for a several randomized experiments examining the implementation and impact of body worn cameras in law enforcement and correctional settings. He is involved in all aspects of the Center's work regarding training, research, critical incident review, and justice system reform and improvement.

Prior to his work at CNA, Dr. Coldren served as an Acting Assistant Provost, as the Director of Sponsored Programs and Research, and as the Program Coordinator for the Interdisciplinary Leadership Doctorate and Criminal Justice MA programs at Governors State University in Illinois. He served for over four years as the President of the Illinois John Howard Association for Prison Reform, a non-profit organization dedicated to monitoring and improving the conditions of confinement in prisons, jails, and juvenile detention centers. Dr. Coldren served in several capacities at the University of Illinois at Chicago — as Director of the Center for Research in Law and Justice, and also as Director of the Institute for Public Safety Partnerships, a community policing training institute. Prior to joining UIC, Dr. Coldren served as Deputy Director with the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods, a longitudinal community research project of the Harvard University School of Public Health. Dr. Coldren served for seven years as Director of Research for the Justice Research and Statistics Association in Washington, DC



#### DR. SARA JOZWIK

Dr. Sara Jozwik is an Associate Professor in the Division of Education and Leadership and Special Education program director at Governors State University. Her scholarship and teaching center equity, linguistic justice, and inclusive pedagogy. With a 25-year career spanning K—12 and higher education, Dr. Jozwik brings a deep commitment to serving multilingual learners with disabilities through justice-oriented, culturally responsive frameworks. Her research explores the intersections of language, disability, race, and technology in language and literacy development, Universal Design for Learning, and access to evidence-building, affirming instruction. She has led and collaborated on multiple funded projects aimed at transforming educator preparation and advancing inclusive, trauma-informed practices. Through both scholarship and service, Dr. Jozwik advocates for educational systems that recognize and uplift the strengths of emergent bilingual students labeled as disabled and their families.



#### NANCY J. MICHAELS

Nancy J. Michaels (MA, Roosevelt University) is Co-Executive Director of Reimagine Justice Illinois (RJI), a statewide, nonprofit organization. Centering one another's humanity through restorative justice and social-emotional skill building, RJI empowers people to prevent and repair harm in our communities and systems.

Nancy is a restorative justice practitioner and trainer whose work is steeped in community building, advocacy, and training in order to expand restorative justice practices anywhere possible — none of which can be done alone without collaboration and shared leadership. She has worked on a number of initiatives with the goal of shifting mindsets around how we "do justice" in our schools and the criminal justice system. She is a highly collaborative and driven change agent who moves social justice initiatives forward by building and repairing relationships and raising consciousness through data driven research and community engagement. Nancy was instrumental in establishing the first Restorative Justice Community Court in Chicago and continues to serve as a circle keeper for the court. Formerly, as the Associate Director at the Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation at Roosevelt University, Nancy worked to raise awareness on a range of social justice issues especially related to disproportionality and social injustices that criminalize marginalized individuals and communities.



#### **ANDREW MOHAMA**

Andrew Mohama is a third-year medical student at Rush Medical College who is passionate about health equity, innovative patient- and community-centered health systems, and transforming complex health topics into accessible, meaningful narratives. With a background in biology and philosophy, many of his interests lie at the intersection of science and intellect, research and narrative. Andrew believes that storytelling can help us live better, more connected lives.



#### DR. SARA SCHNOOR

Dr. Sara Schnoor's mission is to serve others and a collective cause by offering a passionate vision, thoughtful perspective, and transformative leadership. She strives, alongside other educators and co-conspirators, to lead the improvement of school systems for the benefit of all children. Her service of over 20 years in public education can be captured by her belief in the power of education to create positive change and equitable outcomes for individuals and communities, centering the experiences of children and families while also owning accountability for their futures, and knowing people are at their best when they are driven by their passions and curiosities as well as empowered with trust. Dr. Schnoor is grateful for her experience teaching and leading at both the elementary and secondary levels in South Carolina, Arizona, and Illinois. She earned her Ph.D. from New Mexico State University (2021) and her Ed.S./Superintendent Endorsement from Concordia University (2024). Dr. Schnoor joined the faculty at Governors State University in August of 2024.



#### SAMANTHA SHIH

Samantha Shih graduated from Barnard College of Columbia University with a bachelor's degree in cellular and molecular neuroscience and now is completing her Doctor of Medicine degree at RUSH Medical College. In healthcare she is interested in medical education, women's sexual and reproductive health, medical humanities, and the intersection of restorative justice and the healthcare field. Outside of work, she loves hot yoga, browsing independent bookstores, and lingering dinner conversations with friends.



# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVES AND AGENCIES



We use empowered engagement in everything we do, encouraging people to surface solutions from their own wisdom, build from their own experiences, assist each other through peer-to-peer support, and become leaders in their families and communities. We are committed to shifting power dynamics in human services, promoting justice, eliminating systemic racism, and co-creating with the people who our products and services are intended to assist.



BUILD is a nationally respected gang intervention, violence prevention, and youth development organization working on Chicago's West Side.



Restorative justice is a global social movement with growth in a variety of settings including K-12 schools, higher education institutions, workplaces, community organizations, and criminal justice agencies.

The USD Center for Restorative Justice prepares the next generation of diverse restorative justice leaders and provides research, training, and consultation in needs and projects within and beyond higher education.



An Illinois Public University

The Certificate in Restorative Justice (CRJ) program at Governors State University combines faculty expertise in restorative justice with a multidisciplinary approach to justice in theory and practice. Students who complete this certificate—whether on its own or in conjunction with a master's degree program in Education, Criminal Justice, or Political & Social Justice Studies—build a philosophical foundation in justice, learn best practices of restorative justice, and apply their skills and training toward more effective work in their local communities. Students will investigate a range of topics in the classroom and in the field, including restorative justice in legal, educational, urban, environmental, local, and global contexts.



The Zehr Institute shapes the development of restorative justice as a global social justice movement. As an innovative faith-based, movement-building think tank on restorative justice:

- We promote research and scholarship.
- We provide education and resources.
- We connect people and build networks.

Our unique approach reflects our location at a faith-informed university that values social justice



"The NEWROOT Learning Institute is an organization in partnership with the Office of Social and Emotional Learning, Chicago Public Schools, that works to improve young people's experiences by increasing adults' capacity to utilize restorative justice mindsets and social-emotional learning to cultivate restorative school culture. NEWROOT equips educators, school leaders, and families with professional learning experiences that create safe, connected, and responsive learning environments. By aligning entire school communities around strong relationships and shared accountability, NEWROOT builds cultures where youth can thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.



Duane Powell is a Chicago-based DJ, promoter, historian, and tastemaker whose career spans nearly four decades. Beginning in the 1980s with street promotions for Chicago's house scene, he went on to manage marketing for iconic clubs, work at Dr. Wax Records, and champion artists such as Ledisi, Jill Scott, and Eric Roberson. He founded SOUNDROTATION in 1999, cultivating the city's underground soul scene, and created the Rear View Mirror Sessions lecture series on music history. A Rebuild Foundation partner and Frankie Knuckles Foundation board member, Powell curates the acclaimed Sunday Service and was named Chicago's Best House DJ in 2019.



Tumbao Bilingual Books: Resources Rooted in Culture and Connection A Culturally Grounded Framework to Transform Literacy, Language, and Belonging Un Marco con Base Cultural para Transformar la Alfabetización, el Lenguaje y el Sentido de Pertenencia



Victorius Living Church of God Choir and Pastor David S. Blair, Sr. of South Holland, IL

# INTERNATIONAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE



#### **JAY BEHEL**

Jay Behel is the Associate Dean of Medical Student Affairs, RUSH Medical College Chief, Division of Hospital Psychology Education Lead, Affirm: *The RUSH Center for Gender, Sexuality & Reproductive Health* 



#### DR. JAMES R. "CHIP" COLDREN, JR.

Dr. James R. "Chip" Coldren, Jr., Ph.D. serves as a Senior Fellow in the Center for Justice Research and Innovation at CNA, in the Institute for Public Research. He began is work at CNA as a Principal Scientist in the Center in 2009. He is an experienced program evaluator with over 40 years of research and evaluation experience in law enforcement, juvenile justice, and corrections.



#### DR. JANELLE CROWLEY

Dr. Janelle Crowley is the Chief of Staff at Governors State University. Dr. Crowley holds an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree in public and business administration, a master's degree in human resources development, a second master's degree in business administration [finance] and has her Ph.D. in applied management and decision sciences.



#### DR. MARGARET KULUJIAN

Dr. Margaret Kulujian Ph.D. is a community psychologist, mediator, and the Restorative Justice Community Court Coordinator in Cook County.



#### DR. MARY CARRINGTON

Dr. Mary Carrington, inaugural Dean of the College of Graduate Studies at Governors State University, is a plant ecologist specializing in tallgrass prairie restoration. Her research explores plant, insect, and soil interactions while mentoring students to advance ecological knowledge and restore one of Illinois' most endangered ecosystems.



#### PROFESSOR DR. GRAZIA MANNOZZI

Professor Dr. Grazia Mannozzi is Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Insubria (Como, Italy), where she also teaches "Restorative Justice and Victim-Offender Mediation" and "Transitional Justice."



#### DR. MARCELLO ALECCI

Dr. Marcello Alecci, Ph.D., is a Bio-Medical Physics and Bioengineering, with international training and comprehensive knowledge in medical imaging, technology transfer, and healthcare markets.

Broad academic research and development experience. More than 30 years of experience in managing national/international collaborations and people leadership.



DR. JOI F. PATTERSON

Dr. Joi F. Patterson, Ph.D. is Chief of Institutional Engagement and Excellence at Governors State University.



#### PROFESSOR DR. DANIEL RIBEIRO PREVE

Professor Dr. Daniel Ribeiro Preve is a Professor and Permanent Researcher in the Postgraduate Program in Law at the University of the Extreme South of Santa Catarina (UNESC).



#### DR. JOAO SALM

Dr. Joao Salm is currently Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Governors State University.



#### DR. PHYLLIS WEST

Dr. Phyllis West is the Director of Social Justice Initiative at Governors State University. She earned a bachelor's degree in history from Paine College and two master's degrees (one in public health, the other in social work) from Tulane University, before earning her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Frank Barbaric
Greta Bochert
William Burke
Jonathan Cooper
Laura Honegger
Siva Venkat Vinay Deep Korada
Cameryn Landers
Adil Iqbal
Dimitar Magdenovski

Brett Porter Helen W. Powell Kahlen Ranson Harish Rayalpati Eboni Rucker Oleg Sabetskii Mervat Saleh Jadie Smith Rene Striverson

Faiza Syed Woodman Taylor Sai Sindhu Tumukunta Danush Udaiyar Surya Kiran Vuppay Frank Walker Jalyn Woodard



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