



BRIDGING THE DIVIDE:

AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

April 7, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

USC School of Law Auditorium Room 160

This day-long symposium is free and open to the USC community and to the public.

Please register: uscbridgingthedivide.eventbrite.com

Day I

09:00 – 09:15 Welcoming Remarks and Symposium Objectives

Joel H. Samuels, *Professor of Law and Director, Rule of Law Collaborative, University of South Carolina*

Nikky Finney, *John H. Bennett, Jr., Endowed Professor of Creative Writing and Southern Letters, University of South Carolina*

Joan Gabel, *Provost, University of South Carolina*

09:15 – 10:45 Session 1: Addressing the Root Causes

This session will explore the challenges facing African-American communities and law enforcement today. Among the questions to be addressed by this panel: What are the major issues that have created the divide between these communities? How do we move beyond isolated incidents of violence and address broader, structural issues of inequality and racism in the United States? How are youth impacted by this divide?

Moderator: Seth Stoughton, *Assistant Professor of Law, University of South Carolina*

Dr. Theron L. Bowman, *Deputy City Manager & Public Safety Director, Arlington, Texas*

Maxine Crump, *CEO, Dialogue on Race*

Rev. Starsky Wilson, *President and CEO, Deaconess Foundation*

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Session 2: Comparative International Initiatives

This session will explore the various international models of restorative justice and the lessons learned from these experiences. Questions to consider include: how effective were these models in achieving their objective? What challenges did they face and how did they mitigate those challenges? To what extent did these models address root causes of structural inequality and racism? What have we learned from these experiences that could be replicated in the United States to help heal the divisions between African-American communities and law enforcement?

Moderator: *Virginie Ladisch, Transitional Justice Expert and Head, Children and Youth Program, International Center for Transitional Justice*

Mary Burton, Human Rights Activist and Former Commissioner of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Javier Ciurlizza, Director, Andean Region, Ford Foundation and former Executive Secretary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Peru

Dr. Patricia Lundy, Professor of Sociology, Ulster University and Ardoyne Commemoration Project, Northern Ireland

Ronald Slye, Professor of Law, Seattle University School of Law and former Commissioner of the Kenya Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission

12:30 – 01:30 Lunch Break

01:30 – 03:00 Session 3: The Case for Restorative Justice

This session will explore the potential for restorative justice to help bridge the divide between African-American communities and law enforcement. Can a truth and reconciliation process be an effective tool for grappling with issues of minority relations with state power? Could commissions lead to broader institutional reform? What is the role of restorative justice in light of other initiatives in the police reform and police community relations space? If a restorative justice model is implemented, what are the possible models – national, state, or local level?

Moderator: *Dr. Todd Shaw, Associate Professor and Interim Chair, Political Science, University of South Carolina*

Jennifer Llewellyn, Professor of Law, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University

Chief Hank Stawinski, Police Chief, Prince George's County, Maryland

Farah Tanis, Executive Director, Black Women's Blueprint

Stephen White, OBE, Senior Research Fellow, Global Center for Cooperative Security

03:00 – 03:15 Coffee Break

03:15 – 05:00 Session 4: From Rhetoric to Action – Restorative Justice in the United States

Although there have been initial attempts at restorative justice as demonstrated earlier in the conference, more needs to be done to heal the divisions between African-American communities and law enforcement in the United States. In this session, experts will take account of the three prior sessions and will explore next steps in the process of implementing a meaningful restorative justice model that benefits all communities across the United States. Questions to consider include: what would a nationwide solution look like and what type of mechanisms are most appropriate—for example, a hybrid model where a national commission works in tandem with grassroots initiatives? Is there political will for implementing restorative justice mechanisms? How would such a commission(s) have legitimacy in communities where there are low levels of trust? What would be the relationship between restorative justice mechanisms and the formal justice system? And finally, what are the practical steps for making this happen?

Moderator: David Tolbert, *President, International Center for Transitional Justice*

Dr. Fania E. Davis, *Co-Founder & Executive Director, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth*

Chief Ken Miller, *Chief of Police, Greenville, South Carolina*

Dr. David Ragland, *Co-Founder, Truth-Telling Project, Ferguson, Missouri*