AN ACT OF JUSTICE
UNDOING THE LEGACY OF MASS INCARCERATION

MARCH 30 – APRIL 1, 2017

Presented in partnership with the Criminology, Law and Society Department at the University of St. Thomas, Houston
GETTING AROUND
The Symposium will be held at both the Rothko Chapel and University of St. Thomas. Locations for each session are reflected in the map below and adjoining schedule.

ROTHKO CHAPEL
3900 Yupon
713.524.9839
Office Hours: M – F, 9am – 5pm
rothkochapel.org
info@rothkochapel.org
Open daily 10am – 6pm

PARKING
Please plan ample time to find parking prior to your arrival. Free street parking is available on Sul Ross, Yupon, Branard, and Mulberry streets. Be sure to follow all parking regulations and signs, as street parking is monitored by the City of Houston.

MORAN PARKING CENTER
3807 Graustark
Suggested Parking, $5 per entry

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS, HOUSTON
3800 Montrose
713.522.7911
stthom.edu

CROOKER CENTER
3909 Graustark
Breakout Session
1st Floor: Ahearn Room

JERABECK CENTER
4000 Mt Vernon
2nd Floor: Scanlan Room
Breakout Sessions
2nd Floor: Scanlan Room, Classrooms 201 and 202

Virtual Reality Solitary Confinement Experience
2nd Floor: Conference Room

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017
7 – 8:30pm
Decriminalization and Decarceration: Getting There from Here
Keynote Address by Margaret Burnham
Poetry Performed by Writers in the Schools (WITS) snacks provided
Rothko Chapel Plaza
8:30 – 9pm
Reception
Rothko Chapel Plaza

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017
8:15 – 8:45am
Continental Breakfast
Rothko Chapel Plaza
9 – 10:30am
Morning Reflections: Personalizing the Impersonal
Rothko Chapel
10:30 – 10:45am
Break
10:45am – 12pm
From Arrest to Community Re-integration
Rothko Chapel
12:30 – 2pm
Alternatives to Incarceration and Reform Efforts
Lunch Panel
University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center
2nd Floor: Scanlan Room
2 – 2:15pm
Closing Remarks
University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center
2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017
8:15 – 8:45am
Continental Breakfast
Rothko Chapel Plaza
9 – 10:30am
Morning Reflections: Rituals of Reentry and the Importance of Community
Rothko Chapel
10:30 – 11am
Break
11am – 12:15pm
Alternatives to Incarceration and Reform Efforts
Legislative and Public Policy Perspectives
University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center
2nd Floor: Scanlan Room
12:30 – 2pm
Closing Remarks
University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center
2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

5pm
Dinner on your own
6:15 – 6:45pm
Poetry and Performances by Writers in the Schools (WITS) snacks provided
Rothko Chapel Plaza
7 – 8:30pm
Dismantling the System: What Juvenile Decarceration Can Teach Us About Undoing Mass Incarceration
Keynote Address by Vincent Schiraldi
Rothko Chapel
8:30 – 9pm
Reception
Rothko Chapel Plaza

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From Arrest to Community Re-integration
Rothko Chapel
12:30 – 1:30pm
Lunch and Welcome
by Dr. Robert LaCarra
University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room
1:30 – 1:45pm
Break
1:45 – 3pm
Unique Challenges Faced by Youth and Juveniles, Women, and Families
University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room
3 – 3:30pm
Break
snacks provided
3:30 – 5pm
Go Deeper, Learn More, Get Involved
Breakout Sessions
University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room, Classrooms 201 and 202, Crooker Center, 1st Floor: Ahearn Room

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Keynote Address by Vincent Schiraldi
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Reception
Rothko Chapel Plaza
It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Rothko Chapel’s 2017 Spring Symposium, An Act of Justice: Undoing the Legacy of Mass Incarceration, offered in partnership with the Criminology, Law and Society Department at the University of St. Thomas. The convening of this symposium is very timely as our nation’s mass incarceration system is at a crisis point. Over 2 million people are incarcerated in thousands of jails, youth correctional facilities, and federal and state prisons across the country—a number that has more than doubled over the last thirty years. The direct societal costs associated with incarceration exceed $80 billion per year, yet when factoring in the collateral costs such as lost earnings, child welfare, adverse health effects and reentry efforts, the figure approaches $1 trillion annually. Too many people are still wrongfully convicted or receive protracted sentences for minor or non-violent offenses, and a person’s race and economic background continue to factor heavily as to who is more likely to be incarcerated.

Additionally, the environment in which many people serve out their sentences is often harsh and inhumane. Many people are incarcerated far from their communities, furthering isolation from family and community support in spite of the fact that studies clearly show that outside visits can reduce recidivism. Mass incarceration is not only costly—it deindividualizes those in the system and deters the development of the life skills and community connections needed to successfully thrive outside of the system.

In response to these and many other challenges including human rights abuses, there are substantial efforts being made at the local, regional, and national levels to reform our nation’s criminal justice system. The symposium offers an in-depth introduction as to how this system developed, conversations with experts who are developing and promoting the use of alternatives to incarceration, and ways to advocate for systemic change. Most importantly, the Spring Symposium adds support to the growing bi-partisan, multi-sector reform movement that calls each of us to expand our role as change agents leading to a more just, effective and equitable system that affirms the innate worth and potential of all who are incarcerated.

Again, thank you for your interest and participation in the 2017 Spring Symposium An Act of Justice: Undoing the Legacy of Mass Incarceration.

David Leslie,
Executive Director,
Rothko Chapel
THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017

7pm, Rothko Chapel
Decriminalization and Decarceration: Getting There from Here
Keynote Address by Margaret Burnham, Professor, Northeastern University School of Law
Welcome and Overview by David Leslie, Executive Director, Rothko Chapel
Poetry performed by Audrey M., Writers in the Schools (WITS)
Explore the legacy of mass incarceration in the United States: how we became the most incarcerated nation in the world and what it would take as a society to undo this complex system. Burnham discusses the realities that race, class and economics play while also lifting up some of the visionary reform efforts that are underway. The program is followed by a reception on the Plaza.

Friday, March 31, 2017

8:15 – 8:45am, Rothko Chapel Plaza
Continental Breakfast

9 – 10:30am, Rothko Chapel
Morning Reflections: Personalizing the Impersonal
Dolores Canales, Advocate & Co-Founder, California Families Against Solitary Confinement
Michael Sawayzer, Mentor & Educator
Moderator: Rev. Ron Stief, Executive Director, National Religious Campaign Against Torture
Hear personal stories shared by individuals who have gone through the experience of arrest, incarceration, and release.

10:45am – 12pm, Rothko Chapel
From Arrest to Community Re-integration
Peter Bray, Assistant Federal Public Defender
Nicole Cáceres, Professor, University of St. Thomas & University of Houston Law Center
Adrian Garcia, former Harris County Sheriff
Robert Meyers, Director, National H.I.R.E. Network of the Legal Action Center
Moderator: Terri Burke, Executive Director, ACLU Texas
Understand the process of arrest, incarceration, and reentry through the perspective of experts working in the field, including law enforcement officers, public defenders, educators, and community service providers, who will uncover the challenges and changes being made.

12:30 – 1:30pm, University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room
Lunch and Welcome
Dr. Roberto LaCarra, Founding Director & Associate Professor of the University of St. Thomas’ Criminology, Law and Society program

1:45 – 3pm, University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room
Unique Challenges Faced by Youth and Juveniles, Women, and Families
Sandra Guerra Thompson, Alumnae College Professor in Law & Director, Criminal Justice Institute at the University of Houston Law Center
Krishnaveni Gundu, Co-Founder, Texas Jail Project
Charles Rotamel, CEO, Houston: reVision
Moderator: Dr. Helen Taylor Greene, Professor in the Administration of Justice Program at Texas Southern University in the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Explore the nuances and unique circumstances faced by incarcerated juveniles, women, and their family members.

3 – 3:30pm
Break
Snacks provided

3:30 – 5pm, University of St. Thomas
Breakout Sessions: Go Deeper, Learn More, Get Involved
Choose different areas of focus to go deeper and learn more.

Featured Topics & Presenters:

#RethinkJails
Crooker Center, 1st Floor: Ahearn Room
Leah Garabedian, Chief Criminal Justice Strategist, Harris County Budget Management Department
Harris County is at the national forefront of justice improvement efforts. This break out session provides an opportunity to learn more about the innovative strategies being implemented to change the way we think about and use our jail to protect the public and promote fair and effective justice for all. The Chief Criminal Justice Strategist for Harris County provides an overview of the Safety + Justice Challenge, the County’s accomplishments to date, and engage in an interactive dialogue about how justice stakeholders steer justice progress in the third largest county in America.

Disobedient Narratives:
Art as a Tool for Social Change
Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Classroom 201
Courtney Bowles, Artist & Co-Director, The People’s Paper Co-op and Mark Strandquist, Artist & Project Director, Performing Statistics
How would incarcerated youth train an entire police force? How would formerly incarcerated men and women transform a city’s reentry services and policies? How could shifting public perceptions help shift public policies? Mark Strandquist and Courtney Bowles have spent years answering these questions by using art as a vehicle for connecting diverse communities to amplify, celebrate, and power social justice movements. Their projects combine organizing strategies, and urgently needed services, with collaborative, poetic, and performative actions that connect diverse and often antagonistic actors (abolitionists, police departments, service providers, and those impacted by the system).

Reforming the System: Unique Challenges and Opportunities Facing Incarcerated Juveniles and Women
Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room
An interrelated presentation by Charles Rotamel, CEO, Houston: reVision, and Krishnaveni Gundu, Co-Founder, Texas Jail Project
The first part of this session focuses on how the school to prison pipeline pushes hundreds of thousands of children and youth out of classrooms, onto the street, and into detention centers and prisons on a daily basis. Rotamel uncovers some of the juvenile justice and school discipline practices, how they have helped to create the era of mass incarceration, and specific solutions that are available for individuals, communities, and schools. The second part of this session focuses on the unique challenges faced by women incarcerated in jails across Texas. Many of these institutions were designed primarily for male inmates and as a result have given rise to medical neglect, harassment, abuse and suicides. Gundu sheds light on these realities in addition to the other injustices faced by pregnant women in jail and the advocacy efforts that are currently underway to change some of these detrimental practices.

Set My People Free: Ending the Torture of Solitary Confinement in Prisons
Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Classroom 202
Dolores Canales, Advocate & Co-Founder, California Families Against Solitary Confinement
Lance Lowry, President, AFSCME Huntsville Correctional Employees
Rev. Ron Stief, Executive Director, National Religious Campaign Against Torture
It is estimated that 80,000–100,000 persons in our U.S. prison system are held in solitary confinement. Up to one-third of these suffer some form of severe mental illness. Conditions of extreme isolation—often in 6x9 cells, 23 hours a day, for weeks, months, years and even decades—are defined as torture by brain scientists, and many are calling for an end to this inhumane practice, including most recently Pope Francis, President Obama, and the United Nations. This workshop brings together three leaders in the growing national and state by state movement to “Stop Solitary” sharing the perspective of state corrections, family and community coalitions, and faith leaders.

6:15 – 6:45pm, Rothko Chapel Plaza
Poetry and Performances by Writers in the Schools (WITS)
Enjoy original poems performed by Donald V., Jadon E., Jackson N., Adam M., Rukmini K., and Lyn S.
Dismantling the System: What Juvenile Decarceration Can Teach Us About Undoing Mass Incarceration

Keynote Address by Vincent Schiraldi

Welcome by Ashley Clemmer, Director of Programs and Community Engagement, Rothko Chapel

Introduction by Dr. Roberto LaCarra, Founding Director and Associate Professor, University of St. Thomas’ Criminology, Law and Society program

Using the Juvenile Justice System as a starting point, Schiraldi uncovers why the number of young people locked up has declined by more than 50% since the beginning of this millennium while adult incarceration has only flattened out. Through this exploration, Schiraldi shares some of the key elements and actions needed to decrease mass incarceration in America, and the significant role that citizens are playing to dismantle the system.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

8:15 – 8:45am, Rothko Chapel Plaza

Continental Breakfast

9 – 10:30am, Rothko Chapel

Morning Reflections: Rituals of Reentry and the Importance of Community

Christie Carrington, Myoken-Ji, Temple / Nichiren Buddhist Sangha of Texas

Anthony Graves, Activist, Death Row Exoneree 138, and Founder, Anthony Graves Foundation

Moderator: David Leslie, Executive Director, Rothko Chapel

Gain insight into maintaining a sense of hope, resiliency, and spirit while incarcerated. This reflective session focuses on our collective responsibility to welcome back and support formerly incarcerated people into community and explore rituals of reentry.

11am – 12:15pm, University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

Alternatives to Incarceration and Reform Efforts

Chief (Ret.) Brendan Cox, Director, Policing Strategies, LEAD National Support Bureau

Kathryn Griffin Grifín, Recovery Coach & Peer-To-Peer Counselor

Hon. Brock Thomas, Harris County District Court – Reintegration Court

Moderator: Jay Jenkins, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, Harris County Project Attorney

Learn more about alternatives to incarceration and reform efforts, highlighting how certain programs, such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program in Seattle, have gained traction as a way for municipalities to reduce recidivism rates and costs. This panel discusses the future of de-incarceration and potential programs that may help further reduce incarceration in America.

12:30 – 2pm, University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

Legislative and Public Policy Perspectives Lunch Panel

Sandra Guerra Thompson, Alumnae College Professor in Law and Director, Criminal Justice Institute at the University of Houston Law Center

Marc A. Levin, Director, Center for Effective Justice & Right on Crime at the Texas Public Policy Foundation

State Representative James White

Moderator: Mimi Marziani, TX Civil Rights Project

Poetry performed by Basmah K., Writers in the Schools (WITS)

This session features Texas policy makers with a focus on Texas legislation and current reform efforts occurring in the state. Panelists discuss the pros and cons of pending legislation and what possible policy changes would mean for broader reform efforts.

2:15pm

Closing Remarks

Dr. Roberto LaCarra, Founding Director and Associate Professor of the University of St. Thomas’ Criminology, Law and Society program

David Leslie, Executive Director, Rothko Chapel

Reflect on the range of topics covered in the three day symposium and discuss some of the many opportunities for action and advocacy.
Terri Burke
Terri Burke has been Executive Director of the ACLU of Texas since 2008. A major focus for the organization is smart justice reform. The ACLU of Texas is headquartered in Houston, and has offices in Austin, Dallas and Brownsville on the border. Instead of law school, Burke’s postgraduate work after education at the University of Texas involved reporting on how the sausage is made in two very different state legislatures. As a business reporter covering a booming and bust, she led two different staffs to Pulitzer Prizes. A native Houstonian, her newspaper career took her through Dallas, Austin, Albuquerque, Abilene, TX, and Hartford, CT.

Nicole Cáñez
Nicole Cáñez is an attorney and communication professor at the University of St. Thomas, where she teaches journalism, wrongful convictions, and media law. She has also taught constitutional law, First Amendment law and privacy law at the University of Houston Law Center. Before joining the UST faculty, Cáñez practiced law at Vinson & Elkins. Cáñez serves as the board chair of the Houston Forensic Science Center local government corporation, which oversees the City of Houston’s independent crime lab. She received national and international media attention in connection with her work on the case of Texas death row inmate Anthony Graves, who was exonerated in 2010.

Chief (Ret.) Brendon Cox
Chief (Ret.) Brendan Cox is the Director of Policing Strategies for the LEAD National Support Bureau, providing formal and informal law enforcement on the implementation and operation of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion initiatives. He provides expertise on criminal justice reform involving police/community relationships, maximizing reentry, and community, and diversion. Cox recently retired as Chief of Police from the Albany, NY, police department. Under his guidance, LEAD was fully implemented and the department was recognized as one of 15 jurisdictions in the COPS Advancing 21st Century Policing initiative.

Christie Carrington
Christie Carrington, a native Houstonian, has practiced Nichiren Buddhism since 1986 and is a member of Myoken-Ji Temple—Nichiren Shu Order. Carrington is intimately connected to mass incarceration, as her brother spent much of his adult life incarcerated. She also worked for Supporting Kids of Incarcerated Parents, a program coordinating children’s interactions with their incarcerated mothers, and at Angela’s House, facilitating the transition and reentry of incarcerated women. Carrington is a religious volunteer at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. For the past 12 years, she has assisted Rev. Myokei Shonin in facilitating Buddhist meditation groups at Wallace Pack Unit in Navasota and Estelle Unit in Huntsville, TX.

Leah Garabedian
Leah Garabedian brings a collaborative, data-driven approach to establishing a justice system that is fair, effective, and efficient for Harris County. As Senior Project Manager for the Justice Management Institute, she provided technical assistance to justice systems nationally, focusing on strategic planning with criminal justice coordinating councils. As Defender Counsel for the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, she promoted the right to counsel, through policy advocacy, strategic alliances, and training and technical assistance. As Senior Associate with the Pew Charitable Trusts, she provided technical assistance under the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Justice Reinvestment Initiative, leading to overwhelming passage of comprehensive criminal justice reform in South Dakota.

Anthony Graves
Anthony Graves, also known as Death Row Exoneratee 138, spent over 18 years in prison—16 in solitary confinement and 12 on Texas Death Row, with two execution dates—for a crime he did not commit. With Grave’s steadfast focus on his innocence and the tireless work of organizations, he was vindicated and released in 2010. He has spoken all over the world, including at the American Bar Association Death Penalty Representation Project’s 25th Anniversary, the Anti-Defamation League’s Summer Associate Program, and the US Senate Judiciary Hearing on Solitary Confinement. He started the Anthony Graves Foundation to support children affected by the criminal justice system. Beacon Press will publish his book Infinite Hope in March 2018.

Dr. Helen Taylor Greene
Dr. Helen Taylor Greene is a professor in the Department of Administration of Justice in the Barbara Johnson – Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University. She is the co-author and co-editor with Shaun L. Gabibdon of several Sage Publications including the Encyclopedia of Race and Crime (2009), Race and Crime: a Text/Reader (2011), and Race and Crime, 4th ed. (2016). Her research interests also include juvenile justice and law enforcement. She is the recipient of the 2014 Western Society of Criminology William E. B. Du Bois Award for contributions to the study of race/ethnicity, crime and justice.

Kathryn Griffin Griñán
Kathryn Griffin Griñán had a choice in November 2005—to serve a long sentence of incarceration or to change her habits and become a productive citizen. In February 2005, she was the first to graduate from the Harris County STAR Drug Court Program. Today, she advocates for rehabilitation funding in Congress, the Texas Legislature, and the Harris County Commissioners’ Court. She administers her Re-Entry Program—“Been There, Done That”—in the Harris County Sheriff’s Office jail, rehabilitating victims of human trafficking and prostitution. Griffin Griñán is also the program coordinator for “Our Road To Freedom,” housed with the Texas Department of Correction’s Plane State Jail and Henley Unit.

Jay Jenkins
Jay Jenkins works as a Project Attorney for the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) in Houston, where he heads TCJC’s Harris County Criminal Justice Project. Since his start in 2014, he has worked for reform across the Harris County criminal justice system, including working with the public defender’s office, focusing on interactions between citizen-citizens and law enforcement, organizing community members and a diverse group of faith leaders in support of criminal justice reform in Harris County, and authoring and editing policy papers and comprehensive reports supporting broader criminal justice reforms throughout the county.
Dr. Roberto LaCarra
Dr. Roberto LaCarra is the Founding Chair and Associate Professor of Criminology, Law and Society at University of St. Thomas, Houston. His areas of research include youth and prison gangs, juvenile justice studies, prison reform, anti-social behavior, and inmate re-entry and recidivism. Dr. LaCarra worked for 30 years in the criminal justice system in various capacities for the Los Angeles County Probation and Sheriff Departments, U.S. Congressman Tony Cardenas, and as a gang expert witness testifying for both the prosecution and defense. Dr. LaCarra has published books, peer reviewed articles, and made numerous presentations including media interviews on topics relevant to the criminal justice system.

Lance Lowry
Lance Lowry is the President of the AFSCME Huntsville Correctional Employees. For over two decades Lowry has served in law enforcement and corrections, starting his career as a police cadet in 1993 and since has worked in diverse positions. As President of the union, he has sought efficient uses for our criminal justice system while preserving officer pay and benefits. His testimony on solitary confinement was used in investigative U.S. Senate hearings. Lowry has been a resource for articles on prison conditions appearing in GQ Magazine and The Wall Street Journal. Lowry has written articles about prison conditions appearing in the New York Times and Austin American Statesman.

Mimi Marziali
Mimi Marziali is the Executive Director of the Texas Civil Rights Project. She previously directed voting rights programs for multiple political campaigns and committees, overseeing compliance with election law. In 2014, Marziali led the first coordinated, statewide voter protection program for progressive candidates and groups in Texas. She spent several years as Counsel for the Democracy Program of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, where she litigated election law cases in federal courts across the country, including before the US Supreme Court. Marziali has also served as a litigation associate of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. Marziali teaches “Election Law and Policy” at the University of Texas School of Law.

Charles Rotramel
Charles Rotramel has worked with at risk and juvenile justice youth in Houston for over 30 years. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Houston: reVision, a non profit organization that provides mentoring and builds positive peer culture for at risk and adjudicated youth throughout the Greater Houston area. Rotramel is a native Houstonian and a cum laude graduate of Rice University, where he was awarded the Weber-Durkheim Award for Excellence in Sociology for his Senior Honors Thesis on juvenile corrections. Rotramel previously served as the founder and Director of Youth Advocates, Inc., a Houston-based non-profit that built a strong youth community around Hip Hop Culture for more than 15 years.

The Rev. Ron Stief
The Rev. Ron Stief, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, is the executive director of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). As a national leader and faith strategist on ending torture, Rev. Stief speaks widely at college campuses, interfaith events, and coalition actions to end torture. He has been interviewed on CNN, HuffPost Live, New York Times, Religion News Service, Washington Post, National Catholic Reporter and many other national publications. He serves as the chair of the Executive Committee of Shoulder to Shoulder / Stand with American Muslims Upholding American Values.

Michael Swayzer
Michael Swayzer is a Houston-based educator, activist, and mentor. Incarcerated at the age of 16 and in and out of the system until his release in 2015, Swayzer turned his past as a drug dealer, robber and pimp into a role model and motivational speaker for young people and formerly incarcerated adults re-integrating into society. In the last years of his prison sentence he discovered his faith and began participating in the Innerchange Freedom Initiative Program. He now serves as a maintenance worker at Christ Church in Sugar Land. Through the church he engages with inmates and their families in bible study and prison fellowship programs across the state.

Hon. Brock Thomas
Judge Brock Thomas currently presides over the Harris County Reintegration Docket. Established in late 2016 by the Board of Felony District Court Judges, the goal of this docket is to reduce recidivism and maximize diversion and therapeutic options for non-violent state jail offenders. Judge Thomas also presides over the Felony Mental Health Court Program, where he has served since 2013. Judge Thomas was previously the Judge of the 338th Criminal District Court for over 10 years. He also formerly presided over the STAR II (Success through Addiction Recovery) Felony Drug Court from 2005 to 2008.

Sandra Guerra Thompson
Sandra Guerra Thompson is a chaired law professor and Director of the Criminal Justice Institute at the University of Houston Law Center. She has organized a statewide conference on pretrial justice in the State Capitol Building. She has written on numerous criminal law topics, including a recent article on prosecutorial ethics at bail hearings. She currently chairs the Harris County District Attorney’s Evidence Integrity Committee. In 2016, she chaired Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner’s Transition Team’s Criminal Justice Committee. In 2009, she was appointed to the Timothy Cole Advisory Panel on Wrongful Convictions, based on her expertise in eyewitness identifications and other causes of wrongful convictions.

Marc A. Levin
Marc A. Levin, Esq., is the director of the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation and Policy Director of its Right on Crime initiative, which has become the national clearingshouse for conservative criminal justice reforms. Levin has testified on criminal justice policy before Congress and before state legislatures in TX, NV, KS, WI, and CA. Meeting with leaders from the President to the Speaker of the U.S. House to share his ideas on criminal justice reform, Levin has also published dozens of policy papers and articles appearing in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Dallas Morning News.

Roberta Meyers
Roberta Meyers became the sole director of the National H.I.R.E. Network in 2007, after serving as co-director for three years. Before this role, she held other policy and direct service positions at the Legal Action Center. Meyers has worked to improve criminal justice policies that directly affect employment and reentry opportunities for people with criminal records; trained hundreds of workforce development and corrections staff on employment strategies that best serve job seekers with criminal histories; authored guidebooks and policy briefs on criminal record policies that impact employment; and testified before Congress, government agencies, and state legislators about effective reentry policies.

State Representative James White
State Representative James White is a native Texan from Houston, first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2010. Throughout his tenure, Rep. White has been a strong advocate for the residents of District 19 and is committed to ensuring the people of Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Polk, and Tyler counties are well represented. Currently, Rep. White serves as Chairman of the House Committee on Corrections and sits on the International Trade & Intergovernmental Affairs committee. He has previously served on the County Affairs, Agriculture and Livestock, Human Trafficking, Juvenile Justice and Family Issues, Emerging Issues in Law Enforcement, Transportation Planning, and Mental Health committees.
THANK YOU to all the individuals and organizations who made this symposium possible, including:

Symposium Planning Committee: David Benson, Rev. Dorothy Budd, Hank Coleman, David Gerger, Charles Rotramel, Joyce Salhoot, Gregg Taylor

A special thanks to the generous support from Symposium underwriters: Hank Coleman, Dudley T. Dougherty Foundation, the Law Offices of Foreman, DeGeurin & DeGeurin, and an anonymous donor.

UST Staff: Michelle Clayton, Dyla Gutierrez, Michelle Hempton, Dr. Roberto LaCarra, Sean Manbode

Rothko Chapel Guild

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED

ACLU Texas
aclutx.org

Anthony Graves Foundation
anthonygravesfoundation.org

California Families Against Solitary Confinement
solitarywatch.com/cfasc

Center for Effective Justice & Right on Crime at the Texas Public Policy Foundation
rightoncrime.com, texaspolicy.com

Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project
northeastern.edu/civilrights

Houston: reVision
facebook.com/revisionhouston

Innocence Project
innocenceproject.org

LEAD National Support Bureau
leadbureau.org

Legal Action Center
lac.org

National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)
nrcat.org

About the Rothko Chapel

The Rothko Chapel was founded by French-born, Houston philanthropists Dominique and John de Menil, opened in 1971 as an independent institution. It is open every day of the year, 10am to 6pm for people of all religions or none. The Chapel is the work of Mark Rothko and includes 14 of his monumental paintings.

The mission of the Rothko Chapel is to inspire people to action through art and contemplation, to nurture reverence for the highest aspirations of humanity, and to provide a forum for global concerns. The Chapel supports human rights and serves as a rallying place for all who are concerned with peace, justice and freedom throughout the world.

The Rothko Chapel is funded in part by The Brown Foundation, Inc., Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, The George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Houston Endowment, and a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance.

The Rothko Chapel is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is solely responsible for its own funding. Your tax-deductible donation enables the institution to welcome all people every day of the year to experience the transformative power of art, to engage in courageous conversations, and to connect with their innermost thoughts.

STAFF
Kim Ballesteros, Development Associate
Ashley Clemmer, Director of Programs and Community Engagement
Caitlin Ferrell, Visitor Services Coordinator
Kelly Johnson, Volunteer and Program Coordinator
ChiQuita Jones, Office Manager
David Leslie, Executive Director
Alison Pruitt, Director of Operations
Thuy M. Tran, Director of Advancement

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Nedeljka Buncic
Emma Cameron
Melanie Jamison
Fannie Jones
Trent Lira
Diana Muniz
Seema Nanda
Ellen Phillips
Hana Tiric, Lead Host

About University of St. Thomas

Criminology, Law and Society Department

Criminology, Law and Society focuses on the problem of crime and understanding the social, cultural, political, and economic forces that interact with the law. Courses present overviews of legal systems with particular emphasis on criminal and juvenile justice, forms of criminal behavior, the role of law in understanding social and psychological phenomena, and the applications of sociological theory in understanding law and legal systems.

Students are provided with opportunities to become acquainted with the varieties of behavior that society chooses to control or regulate; the methods and institutions used to achieve that control or regulation, and the approaches aimed specifically at altering sanctioned behavior.
AN ACT OF JUSTICE UNDOING THE LEGACY OF MASS INCARCERATION SYMPOSIUM