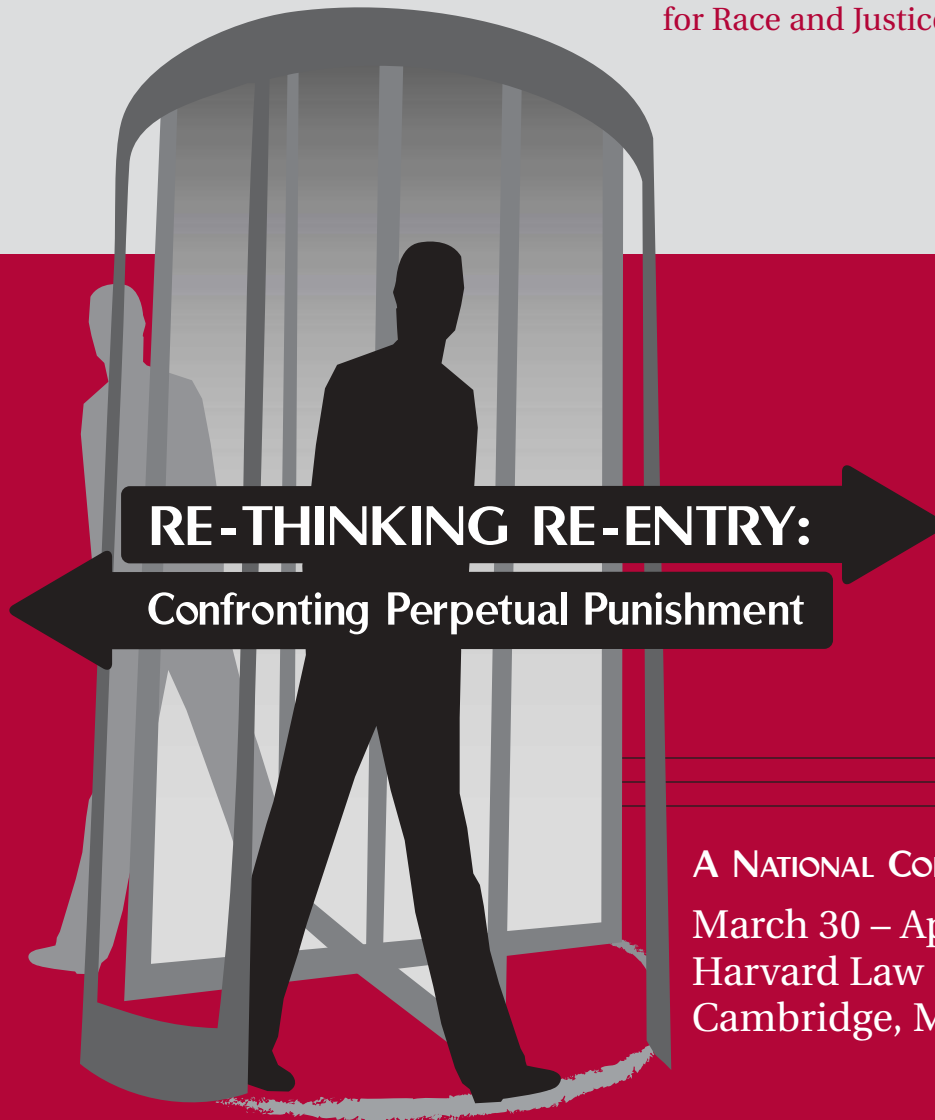
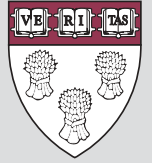


The Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) and the
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute
for Race and Justice (CHHIR)



RE-THINKING RE-ENTRY:

Confronting Perpetual Punishment

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE
March 30 – April 1, 2006
Harvard Law School
Cambridge, MA

The Mission

Our mission in hosting this conference is to address broad concerns of fairness in the criminal justice system and to pursue remedies that reduce disparities and promote reintegration into communities for those who are involved in the criminal justice system.



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Event

The Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) and the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice (CHHIRJ) at Harvard Law School invite you to join us March 30th – April 1st, 2006 in Cambridge, Massachusetts as we co-host a national conference, entitled *Re-Thinking Re-Entry: Confronting Perpetual Punishment*.

The Definition

“Reentry,” as defined in part by a report published by the Urban Institute Justice Policy Center, “is the process of leaving the prison system and returning to society. “[It applies] to a variety of contexts in which individuals transition from incarceration to freedom, including release from jails, federal institutions and juvenile facilities.”

The Problem

Recidivism is a major problem confronted by the criminal justice system. According to statistics reported by the Re-Entry Policy Council,

- nearly 650,000 people are released from U.S. prisons annually, and over 7 million are released from jails;
- 2 of every 3 people released from prison in the US are rearrested within 3 years of release;
- 80% of state prisoners report a history of drug or alcohol use;
- 8% to 16% of the prison population has at least one identified serious mental disorder;
- two thirds of offenders do not have a high school diploma or equivalency degree;
- half of those leaving jail were earning less than \$600 per month prior to their incarceration;
- 10% of those coming in and out of jail are homeless in the months before incarceration; and
- two thirds of the reentry population have children under the age of 18.

The Reality

It is essential that we re-examine the methods used and pathways for reintegration into society if the increase in recidivism is to be reversed. The available research confirms the fact that formerly incarcerated people are in need of many services, a holistic approach, to ensure their successful transition back to their communities. Given the dire statistics, and faced with the reality that at least 95% of incarcerated people will some day return to the community, it is in our collective interest that we work to remove the impediments that contribute to recidivism.

The Discussions

- Addiction
- Community impact
- Disenfranchisement
- Economics and education
- Employment
- Government perspectives
- Housing and multi-services
- Mental health
- Public policy
- Women and families
- Youth

The Audience

A broad cross-section of stakeholders:

- academics, corrections officials, community- based organizations,
- formerly incarcerated people and their families, youth, service providers,
- government officials and representatives of the media.

About CJI

The Criminal Justice Institute is the curriculum-based criminal law clinical program of Harvard Law School. The mission of the Criminal Justice Institute is to educate Harvard Law School students in becoming effective, ethical and zealous criminal defense lawyer-advocates through practice in representing indigent individuals involved in the Massachusetts court system as well as to research and present issues and debates about the criminal and juvenile justice systems in order to affect local and national reform.

www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/cji

About CHHIRJ

The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice seeks to further the vision of racial justice and equality through research, policy analysis, litigation and scholarship. The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice is uniquely situated to take full advantage of the vast resources of the Harvard Law School and the larger University as it addresses these issues in the civil and criminal law context. The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice places a special emphasis on the issues of voting rights, the future of affirmative action, the criminal justice system and related areas.

www.law.harvard.edu/programs/houstoninstitute



THE SCHEDULE

Thursday ♦ March 30, 2006

3:00pm – 9:00pm	Registration
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Welcome Reception & Conference Overview
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Screening of Film Documentary

Friday ♦ March 31, 2006

7:00am – 9:00pm	Registration
8:00am – 10:00am	Continental Breakfast
9:00am – 11:00am	Opening Plenary
11:15am – 12:15pm	Commentaries
12:30pm – 2:30pm	Luncheon & Presentation
2:45pm – 4:45pm	Concurrent Sessions a. Government Perspectives b. Economics & Education c. Women
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Workshop Discussions
6:30pm – 9:00pm	Dinner & Entertainment

Saturday ♦ April 1, 2006

7:00am – 4:00pm	Registration
8:00am – 10:00am	Continental Breakfast
9:00am – 11:00am	Concurrent Sessions a. Housing & Multi-service Programs b. Disenfranchisement c. Mental Health d. Policy
11:00am – 12:00pm	Workshop Discussions
12:15pm – 1:45pm	Luncheon & Keynote Address
2:00pm – 4:00pm	Concurrent Sessions a. Addiction b. Employment c. Youth d. Community Impact
4:15pm – 5:15pm	Workshop Discussions
5:30pm – 6:00pm	Closing Remarks
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Reception

The Criminal Justice Institute and the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice reserve the right to change speakers and/or programs due to unforeseen circumstances. Changes and/or updates will be posted on the website, reflected in the conference program book and announced on the day of the event.



REGISTRATION FORM

One registrant per form. Please photocopy and submit a separate registration form for each attendee.

Name _____
 Mr. Ms Mrs. Dr. First _____ MI _____ Last _____

Title _____ Email _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Office (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

Home (_____) _____ Mobile (_____) _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME _____
First _____ MI _____ Last _____

Phone 1 (_____) _____ Phone 2 (_____) _____
 home office mobile home office mobile

Affiliation

Please check all that apply

- Academician
- Corrections Official
- Government Official
- Media
- Community-based Organization or Service Provider
- Formerly Incarcerated Person
- Family of Formerly or Currently Incarcerated Person
- Student
- Other _____

How did you hear about the *Re-Thinking Re-Entry: Confronting Perpetual Punishment* conference?

- Press Release
- CJI/CHHIRJ Web Site
- Advertisement
- Colleague
- Other _____

Registration Fees *Registration forms must be postmarked/fax dated on/before March 24 for such fees to apply.*

	THROUGH MARCH 24	MARCH 25 – ON SITE	
Thursday, March 30, 2006	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00	
Friday, March 31, 2006	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125.00	
Saturday, April 1, 2006	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125.00	
All 3 days	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00	TOTAL _____

Payment *All fees MUST accompany this form for registration to be processed and for registration fees to apply.*

Check Enclosed Make check payable to Criminal Justice Institute/Harvard Law School;
No faxed checks accepted; \$25 service charge applied to each returned check

Credit Card Type Visa MasterCard American Express

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name as it appears on credit card _____

Credit Card Billing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

✉ MAIL Registration Form:

Criminal Justice Institute
Austin Hall, Room 301
Harvard Law School
Cambridge, MA 02138
Attn: Re-entry Conference

📠 FAX Registration Form:

Credit card payments ONLY
617.496.2277

☎️ CALL/EMAIL for more information or to make special requests:

617.496.8143
dtamburr@law.harvard.edu

Conference Policies

- Pre-registration applications must be postmarked or fax dated no later than March 24, 2006.
- Checks should be made payable to Criminal Justice Institute/Harvard Law School.
- A \$25 service charge will be applied to each returned check.
- Registrations being paid by check must be mailed in. Faxed forms with check payments will not be accepted.
- Personal checks will not be accepted after March 24, 2006, nor will they be accepted on site.
- Registrations are non-transferable.
- Requests to cancel registration must be submitted in writing and postmarked or fax/email dated no later than March 24, 2006.
- Each cancellation will be assessed an administrative fee equal to 20% of your registration payment.
- A valid form of identification will be required in order to pick up registration materials.
- Registration fee includes conference materials and all meals as noted on the conference schedule.

Conference Hotels

THE HAWTHORN SUITES LTD

1 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02474

☎️ 781.643.7258
📠 www.hawthorn.com

\$129.00/night (queen suite)
\$149.00/night (king suite)
9.75% tax rate will be applied

Rates valid nights of March 30, March 31, and April 1.

- Reservations must be made by March 24th
ask for Criminal Justice Institute or Re-Entry Conference
- Accessible by public transportation (MBTA)
15 to 20 minute bus ride between Harvard Law School and hotel; bus stops right in front of hotel
- Free parking
5 to 10 minutes drive between Harvard Law School and hotel
- Rate includes hot breakfast buffet daily
- Each room equipped with a sleeper sofa

SHERATON COMMANDER HOTEL

16 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

☎️ 617.547.4800
📠 www.sheraton.com/commander

\$190.00/night (single)
\$190.00/night (double)
12.45% tax rate will be applied

Rates valid nights of March 30, March 31, and April 1.

- Reservations must be made through CJI @ 617.496.8143
- Accessible by public transportation (MBTA)
- Within walking distance of Harvard Law School



PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

Government Perspectives

Local, state and national government initiatives have been implemented to address the issue of formerly incarcerated people and their return to the communities from which they came. For better or for worse, many of these initiatives have been premised upon concerns of public safety. However, in some instances, interest in the successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated population has led to legislative and policy changes spearheaded by government officials. The panelists will contrast and compare these approaches and share their views regarding what works, what doesn't and how they would improve their programs.

Economics & Education

The stigma of a felony conviction has life long consequences for most people. Numerous barriers to obtaining financial stability and an education operate to create second class citizenship status for the majority of formerly incarcerated people. Ironically, the overwhelming majority of prisoners have not completed high school. Despite several irrefutable research studies that draw a direct correlation between education and lower recidivism rates, many obstacles inhibit pursuit of a degree for formerly incarcerated people. In recognition of these barriers, some creative solutions have been devised to overcome them. They represent a cost effective way to reduce recidivism. The panel will highlight some of these programs, discuss their strengths and analyze how they can be enhanced.

Women

There are unique and specific challenges confronted by formerly incarcerated women. These are not limited to re-establishing family ties although that is a significant issue for all formerly incarcerated people. As the nation began to re-focus its attention towards servicing the formerly incarcerated population and away from a "lock 'em up" approach, gender neutral or, as some would argue, gender ignorant, programs were created. More recently some innovative projects have developed with a structured focus on the needs of formerly incarcerated women. The discussion will explore whether more gender sensitive programs have improved the likelihood of successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated women.

Housing & Multi-service Programs

An appropriate housing plan is a pre-requisite for release on parole in most jurisdictions. Despite concerns about prison overcrowding and the mounting burden on tax payers to incarcerate over 2 million people, increasing barriers to adequate housing have been established in the public and private housing market. Private developers routinely

conduct criminal history searches on interested buyers and proudly announce that they do not sell to people with felony convictions. Section 8 housing is statutorily denied to people with a drug conviction thereby rendering entire families homeless. In an effort to address this problem, some programs have been developed to build housing specifically by and for formerly incarcerated people. Other programs have developed a multi-service holistic approach, offering housing, counseling, health care and job readiness training. This expanded approach has brought many intangible benefits to formerly incarcerated people, and yet there is still room for improvement and expansion. The panelists will discuss their successes and hopes for future achievements.

Disenfranchisement

Permanent and extended time barriers to voting have been imposed across the country denying access to electoral politics to nearly 5 million people with felony convictions. Litigation efforts to eliminate the barriers have had mixed success. Campaigns, legislation and public awareness building have all contributed to bringing about some changes. As the dialogue expands some have begun to question, "What is the legitimate legal basis for denying the right to vote to incarcerated and convicted people." Formerly incarcerated people, their families and friends are beginning to use their political clout to bring an end to their disenfranchisement. The panelists will explore this issue and share their perspectives on why their organizations choose to address the problem in a specific way.

Mental Health

A disproportionately high percentage of the prison population is in need of mental health services. Many of them had untreated or poorly treated mental health needs before their incarceration. For far too many prisoners with mental health needs, access to these services is rare and/or inadequate. Lack of appropriate mental health care while incarcerated reduces the chances of success upon release. The resultant years of neglected mental health issues all but guarantee failed community transition. There is a small but growing number of programs designed to meet this specific concern. Public and private sector initiatives are attempting to better identify the problem and craft compassionate methods of addressing it. Workable solutions, failed attempts and future plans will be the focus of the panel discussion.



PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

Policy

Many of the collateral consequences of criminal convictions have resulted from policies imposed by government and private entities that have not been legally challenged. As an enlightened perspective on the importance of successful reintegration into society for formerly incarcerated people develops, new policies are being implemented to ensure success. They are being proposed by government officials, service providers, lobbying entities for formerly incarcerated people and legal advocates. In some instances, these policies have made a significant difference in the quality of life for many formerly incarcerated people. The effectiveness, vulnerabilities and possibilities for increased use of this approach will be addressed by the panelists.

Addiction

The so called “war on drugs” had a very tangible impact, not on drug usage, but on the number of people incarcerated in direct relation to their addiction. Laws such as 3 Strike mandatory incarceration provisions and the notorious Rockefeller Drug Laws, sent millions of people through the criminal justice system and spit them out with felony convictions and prison backgrounds. The underlying reasons for their drug dependence usually went unaddressed during their incarceration thereby making it nearly impossible for them to succeed upon release. The need for healthy social outlets was usually met with a void creating new feelings of inadequacy and displacement. In recognition of these problems some “self help” initiatives have cropped up across the nation. They strive to remove the stigma of addiction and provide particularized supportive counseling and to this segment of the formerly incarcerated population. Whether there are special needs associated with servicing previously addicted and formerly incarcerated people will be explored by the panelists.

Youth

There has been a disturbing increase in the number of young people incarcerated in youth and adult facilities. By and large, inadequate preparation for their successful transition into society has been made by government agencies. Denial of educational opportunities, lack of sensitive counseling services, health related issues and housing are some of the challenges confronted by formerly incarcerated youth. However, the unique needs of formerly incarcerated youth are beginning to gain recognition amongst the policy makers and program developers. Some of the innovative and successful approaches will be discussed as well as what additional efforts should be made to better serve this population.

Employment

According to many formerly incarcerated people barriers to obtaining employment are their primary concern in attempting to assure a successful reintegration into their communities. The need and desire to be self supporting and care for loved ones is integral to the development of self esteem and self confidence. Employers routinely conduct criminal history checks and refuse employment to people with any criminal history, including those with no recent criminal history and no convictions vaguely related to the type of employment sought. Innovative programs that focus on hiring formerly incarcerated people and people with felony convictions have developed as one solution. Campaigns to eliminate an employer’s ability to inquire into criminal history, except as is related to performing a particular job, have also had some success. This panel will focus on these programs and future plans to eliminate this barrier to successful reintegration into the community.

Community Impact

Perhaps the most widely debated issue arising out of the discourse on the impact of formerly incarcerated people returning to their communities is public safety. Positive and negative reactions have been the impetus for a wide range of government and private initiatives, some of which have created new barriers to reintegration while others have opened previously closed doors. Public relations campaigns, community forums, op ed pieces, town hall meetings and phone hotlines are some of the methods used to alter the public perception that the return of this population to the community is not in everyone’s best interest. Families must heal old wounds and reunite, neighbors must rid themselves of previously held negative opinions, business people must be willing to provide employment opportunities, government services must be increased and hearts and minds must be opened. None of these are easy tasks but several projects are addressing these problems head on. What is working and why will be at the center of this panel discussion.

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CONFIRMED PANELISTS/MODERATORS*

Onwubiko Agozino, PhD
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania

True-See Allah
SNAP of Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)

Patricia Allard
Brennan Center for Justice

Mary Barr
Conexions, Inc.

Xochitl Bervera
Friends and Families of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children

Lael Chester
Citizens for Juvenile Justice

Richard Cho
Corporation for Supportive Housing

Elyse Clawson
Crime and Justice Institute of Community Resources for Justice

Harriette Davis
All of Us or None

Jackson Davis
Center for Community Alternatives

Edwin (Eddie) Ellis
Center for NuLeadership of Urban Solutions

Barbara Fedders
Criminal Justice Institute/Harvard Law School

Elizabeth Gaynes
The Osborne Association

Ronald Hampton
National Black Police Association

Reginald Haynes
The Legendary Escorts

Kerry Healy
Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts

Ann Jacobs
Women's Prison Association

Paula Johnson
Syracuse University College of Law

Ryan King
The Sentencing Project

Lisa Kung
Southern Center for Human Rights

Clinton Lacey
The W. Haywood Burns Institute

Allen "Skip" Land
A Safe Haven

David Lovell, PhD
University of Washington

Arthur J. Lurigio, Ph.D.
Loyola University Chicago

Brigitte Mabandla
Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development of the Republic of South Africa

Eric Mayo
Atlantic Cape Community College

Judith McBride
Family Justice, Inc.

Marta Nelson
Center for Employment Opportunities

Dorsey Nunn
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.
Harvard Law School

Fredrick Patrick
The Fortune Society

Dwite Pedersen
Nebraska State Senator

Michael Pinard
University of Maryland School of Law

Susan Quinlan
Families in Crisis, Inc.

Omar G. Reid
Pyramid Builders Associates

Stanley Richards
The Fortune Society

Cheryl Roberts
Crime & Justice Institute

Alan Rosenthal
Center for Community Alternatives

Thomas Saltrup, Ph.D.
Washington State Department of Corrections

Paul Samuels
Legal Action Center

David A. Singleton
Ohio Justice & Policy Center

Twyla Snow
State of Michigan Department of Corrections

Nkechi Taifa
Open Society Institute

Wayne Thompson
Oklahoma Health Care Project

Marsha Weissman
Center for Community Alternatives

Bruce Western, Ph.D.
Princeton University

Joseph Williams
Transition of Prisoners, Inc.

Natasha Williams, Ph.D.
H. Jack Geiger Congressional Health Policy Fellow

Donna Willmott
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Nancy Wolff, Ph.D.
Rutgers University

*as of 3-2-06