



Confronting HIV Criminalization: Promoting Criminal Justice Reform to Protect Marginalized Communities and End Mass Incarceration

Monday, February 28, 2022

12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. PT / 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. MT

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CT / 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

Host: Mississippi Center for Justice

Sponsors: Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, The Center for HIV Law and Policy, Fair Trials, Prevention Access Campaign, Mississippi Center for Justice, SUNY-Downstate/HEAT, Williams Institute/UCLA

The first National HIV Criminalization Awareness Day will be observed this year on February 28. It is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on HIV criminalization as part of a broader pattern of criminalizing people based on disfavored identities, health status, and disabilities. This two-part event will draw connections between HIV criminalization and other forms of criminalization and over-policing, and point to coalitions and partnerships that offer new pathways for broader criminal justice reform.

LINK TO REGISTER:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_piPEJlv-T2yXqXseTfAOrQ

SCHEDULE

OPENING REMARKS: Linda Dixon, Health Law Director, Mississippi Center for Justice
12:00 noon PT / 1:00 p.m. MT / 2:00 p.m. CT / 3:00 p.m. ET

PANEL 1: Understanding Criminalization of HIV and Viral Hepatitis as Part of the Mass Incarceration Problem

12:05 p.m. PT / 1:05 p.m. MT / 2:05 p.m. CT / 3:05 p.m. ET

Panel theme: This talk will address the question of who is criminalized and how. Panelists will discuss the criminalization of “disfavored identity”: HIV/Viral Hepatitis status, sexual orientation and gender identity, sex worker. The moderator will first give a thumbnail overview of HIV criminalization as an example of disfavored identity or status criminalization. Each panelist will

then take five minutes to describe what HIV criminalization looks like from their perspective (as a person with lived experience, as a professional or advocate, etc.). The moderator will then lead a 30-minute discussion with Q&A.

Panelists will address:

- Being Black in America
- Sex work
- Injection drug use and harm reduction
- HIV, infectious disease, and the real targets of HIV criminal law enforcement
- Immigration status
- Poverty

Moderator: Amir Sadeghi, CHLP

Speakers:

- Mandisa Moore-O'Neal, J.D., New Orleans, LA
- Alecia Reed-Owens, J.D., Mississippi Center for Justice
- Eric Reece, HRC-Arkansas
- Kiara St. James, NY Transgender Advocacy Group
- Norma Esquivel, CHLP
- Nathan Cisneros, Williams Institute, UCLA

PANEL 2: Building an Effective Movement for Systemic Change: Collaborative Responses to Criminalization of Health Status and Identity
1:00 p.m. PT / 2:00 p.m. MT / 3:00 p.m. CT / 4:00 p.m. ET

Panel theme: The patchwork and limits of HIV criminal law reforms to date underscore the need for broader, perhaps unusual, collaborations that extend outside of the HIV silo. Collaborative, multidisciplinary strategies that center those with lived experience in criminal justice and immigration systems are essential for a truly transformative movement. The moderator will provide a snapshot of HIV-related criminal laws in the U.S. The panelists—all stakeholders with different perspectives and focus—will take five minutes to describe new, surprising, or interesting coalitions they have built across disciplines to reduce criminalization, and successes and obstacles they have experienced along the way. The moderator will then lead a 15-minute discussion with Q&A.

Panelists will address:

- The roles and obligations of state and federal public health departments, and sexual health illiteracy as a catalyst for criminalization
- How prosecutors, law enforcement and defense attorneys can influence outcomes
- The role of research in reform advocacy
- Health care professionals as advocates for reform
- Building truly grassroots, inclusive coalitions for change

Moderator: Catherine Hanssens, CHLP

Speakers:

- Amy Killelea, Killelea Consulting
- David LaBahn, Executive Director, Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
- Norman Reimer, Executive Director, Fair Trials
- Dr. Jeffrey Birnbaum, SUNY-Downstate/HEAT (Health Education Alternative for Teens)
- Bryan Jones, Dirt Advocacy Movement, Ohio HIV Modernization Coalition
- Sarah Pilcher, Community Health Centers of Arkansas

CLOSING REMARKS: Linda Dixon, Health Law Director, Mississippi Center for Justice
1:55 p.m. PT / 2:55 p.m. MT / 3:55 p.m. CT / 4:55 p.m. ET