

SOUTHERNMOST ILLINOIS CONFERENCE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

"Reformation, Restoration, and Re-Entry"



SHAWNEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
8634 SHAWNEE COLLEGE ROAD
ULLIN, ILLINOIS 62992
JUNE 23-24, 2023

Visit us at
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FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT

PRE - CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

1pm

Welcome and Opening remarks

Lynne Chambers, JD, MSW, Executive Director, Legacy Training, Inc.



Lynne Chambers holds a Juris Doctorate from the Southern Illinois University School of Law with a Specialization in Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution, a Master's degree in Social Work from Southern Illinois School of Social Work and Bachelor's degree in Social Services Administration from Northeastern Illinois University. She also has completed post-graduate studies in leadership as a member of the Executive Academy of the Delta Leadership Network, as a fellow of the national African American Women's Leadership Institute, and the Executive Training Academy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She is a member of the adjunct faculty of Southeast Missouri State University and Shawnee Community College. In 2022, she was appointed by the Honorable JB Pritzker to the Delta Regional Authority. She is member of the Board of Directors of the Southern Illinois Community Foundation, and Legal Redress Chair for the Illinois State Conference of Branches, and the Alexander/Pulaski County Branch of the NAACP.

1:15pm

Public Policy and the Role of the Advocate - Restore Justice, Wendell Robinson, James Swansey

This session will offer a basic explanation of policy development, how bills become laws and how to interact with policy makers.



James Swansey is the Policy Manager at Restore Justice. He joined the Restore Justice team in February 2021 as a Future Leaders Apprentice. James returned home in December 2020 after serving 28 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Incarcerated in 1993 at the age of 18, James originally received a sentence of natural life without the possibility of parole plus an additional 30 years. He received a new sentence through court cases about youth sentencing.



Wendell Robinson is the Program Director at Restore Justice. He initially joined us as the first Future Leaders Apprentice, and he now oversees that program. The apprenticeship aims to develop non profit management skills among people returning to the community following extreme sentences. His current role also involves community outreach, data management, and fundraising. Wendell served 25 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for a conviction at the age of 17. Released in January 2018, he immediately began to seek sustainable employment and to engage in advocacy to help his peers who are still incarcerated. He completed a training and certification program in trucking and had been working as a truck driver before receiving his apprenticeship.

Selected media and writing: Heartland Alliance: Never Fully Free (2020); State Senate committee focuses on drug penalty reform, elderly parole (2020) Learning to use the internet gave Wendell Robinson a new life (2019)

2:00 - 2:30

Legal Aid Services, Expungement of Sealing of Permanent Records

Join us as we discuss Land of Lincoln Legal Aid's services for noncriminal legal issues with special emphasis on the sealing & expungement of criminal records. The presentation will also discuss the powerful advantages of the growing collaboration between social work and legal perspectives to provide holistic services to Illinois' residents.

Megan Compton works alongside attorneys at Land of Lincoln Legal Aid as a Client Support Services Caseworker. In this role, she provides detailed assessments of cases, connects clients to vital resources, advocates for their rights in the many systems affecting their lives, and assists their legal team by providing a holistic approach to a client's situation. Megan has a personal passion for the collaboration of social work and legal aid to assist the most vulnerable populations with empathy, advocacy, and high-quality representation.

Megan previously provided case management services at Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri (CPSEMO). While at CPSEMO, Megan worked closely with the unhoused population and developed a policy and procedure agreement in the Neighbor Hub, a day shelter and resource center for unhoused individuals. In the summer of 2020, she interned at Kids Win Missouri where she researched the drastic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on childcare access and advocated for local legislative changes to assist Missouri's families and children. Megan recently graduated from Southeast Missouri State University's Social Work program with Advanced Standing status and is planning to pursue her MSW/JD this fall. While still new to the professional field of social work and legal aid, Megan is quick to engage with learning opportunities and to join advocacy efforts that aim to limit the systemic barriers she witnesses in her work and in everyday life.



2:30 - 2:45

Loved Ones Matter - Julie Anderson, Eric Anderson

This workshop will discuss issues that may arise during incarceration such as visits and policies. Julie and Eric will address practical ways that both you and your loved one can navigate this process. Finally, they will discuss how to prepare for your loved one's return to the community.



Julie Anderson is the founder and coordinator of CRIIC, Communities & Relatives of Illinois Incarcerated Children. CRIIC members are family and friends of those serving JLWOP, offering each other support and encouragement while working to eliminate Juvenile Life Without Parole. Julie is one of the founding members of the Restore Justice Illinois Board and is currently on staff as the Outreach Director. Restore Justice Illinois works to reduce extreme prison sentences for young people as well as improving current prison conditions. Julie is on the Board of The Juvenile Justice Initiative and the Steering Committee for the National Family Network for the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth.

Eric Anderson grew up on the Southwest Side of Chicago. In 1995, at the age of fifteen, he was convicted of a double homicide and sentenced to Life Without the Possibility of Parole. In 2017 because of a US Supreme Court Decision (Miller v Alabama) Eric was sentenced to 60 years, with good time the sentence would be 30 years. Eric is a self-taught artist who has donated many paintings to various non-profits in an effort to give back in the only way he could. Eric served as a writer and editor for the Kewanee Horizon, a weekly newsletter dedicated to restorative justice and bringing positive news to those inside. Currently Eric is working on a new program CMM - Credible Messengers Mentorship Program, in collaboration with Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ)



Civic Engagement: The Essential Pathway to Re-entry - Quianya L. Enge

3.3 million adults have been arrested or convicted of a crime since 1979, and 1.2 million adults have conviction records. That is over one million Illinoisans who have served their time, paid all fines and fees related to their conviction, and yet, remain impacted by a web of hundreds of laws, policies, and rules, or “permanent punishments,” that restrict their essential human and civil rights, including the right to engage in the community through elected or appointed positions. are permanently barred from serving their communities. These barriers, identified in the 2020 study, ‘Never Fully Free: The Scale and Impact.

<https://socialimpactresearchcenter.issuelab.org/resource/never-fully-free-the-scale-and-impact-of-permanent-punishments-on-people-with-criminal-records-in-illinois.html>



Quianya L. Enge is a doctoral candidate in Higher Education and Administration (with plans to finish in December of 2023) as well as the lead Researcher for the Office of Innovation and Economic Development (OIED) at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. OIED at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is the southern Illinois regional gateway to networks and collective knowledge ready to assist businesses and start-up entrepreneurs with everything from creating a business plan to attracting equity investments. As a member of the directly impacted community serving 11 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, she is the Founder and current Executive Director of Beyond the Walls, a not-for-profit organization focused on empowering those directly impacted by the criminal legal systems (especially women) through education and entrepreneurship. BTW is a mobile community navigation resource for those impacted by the carceral system returning to southern Illinois. She is also the Communications and Research Manager for the FullyFree Campaign to end permanent punishments in the state of Illinois, leading the research initiative on the intersectional ties of the re-entry process and civic engagement. As a thought leader and social justice activist, she believes that reentry is a community suitability issue and civic engagement needs to be at the helm of re-engagement. Her work is actively closing the opportunity and wealth gaps by promoting self advocacy in policies and making economic development more inclusive, specifically for systematically disadvantaged communities.

FINE ART SHOW

4:00pm

Reception and Meet and Greet

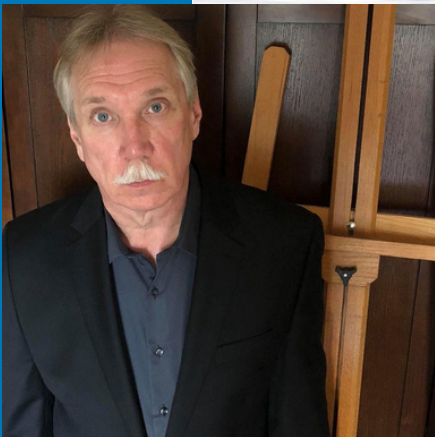
The Artist Collective on Race, Equity and Unity -- SCC Room K
Commissioned Works as a Response to the Work of the Equal
Justice Institute, Montgomery, Alabama

The Southern Illinois Artist Collective on Race, Equity and Unity is an interdisciplinary group of artists who encourage social justice, multiculturalism, diversity, equality, equity, and unity. Through visual arts and performance arts, the individual artists in the group issue a united message of knowledge, enlightenment, struggle, courage, and transformation. The components of this message are accomplished through various media and technological means. For the purposes of this exhibit, the message is the most important part of the show.

5:30pm

Artists Talk:

Dr. Mike Faris



Dr. Michael Faris is an artist and art instructor. He has taught at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri; Shawnee Community College in Ullin, Illinois; and Centralia High School in Centralia, Illinois. Faris has exhibited his artworks at the Kranzberg Art Center of St. Louis, the St. Louis Artists' Guild, the Evansville Museum of Arts and Science, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, The Indianapolis Art Center, The Springfield Art Association, Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, Carbondale Community Arts, and other locations. Faris earned his PhD in art education at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Najjar Abdul- Musawir, MFA



Najjar Abdul-Musawir is an internationally acknowledged artist who has exhibited in the United States, Africa, Asia and Europe. He currently works as a Professor of studio arts and art history in the School of Art and Design and Africana Studies at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Abdul-Musawir has received distinguish acknowledgments, and among them are: Black Art in America Talks: Artists Panel at BAIA Houston Fine Art Show; Artist-in-Residency/exhibit at N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI; Visions of Our 44th President at Charles H. Wright Museum, Detroit, MI; Underrepresented Minorities Art Exhibition at the Center for Diversity & Inclusion at Washington University, St. Louis, MO; Black Creativity Exhibition at Illinois Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL; TELLING TALES: Narrative Threads of Contemporary African American Art at Mitchell Museum, Mt. Vernon, IL; and Panafest Art Exhibition at Cultural Art Center, Cape Coast, Ghana.

Robert A. Ketchens



Robert Ketchens is a social realist painter, known for his layered artworks that are rich and deep in both color and symbolism. Not intending to be didactic, he creates paintings that reflect the social distinctions and complexities of the African diaspora. Ketchens' work is rooted in traditional theory made fresh with modern applications and sensibility. He is drawn to contemporary and historical themes that are symbolic of the larger search for dignity and humanity in black people. In his paintings, you will find visual quotes from noted American Masters such as Henry Tanner, Romare Bearden, and Charles White.

Educational Center Auditorium

6:30 p.m.

Digital presentation: "To Thee I Pray" - Howard Hewett



With his silky smooth, straight-from-the-heart soulful style, Howard Hewett is gifted with one of the most instantly recognizable voices in contemporary music. As the lead singer of a group called Shalamar, he went on to enjoy success with hits like "Second Time Around", "Make That Move"; "A Night to Remember"; "Dead Giveaway"; and the now-classic, "This Is For the Lover in You." Their success on Solar Records made them one of the most popular international groups of the '80s.

In 1986, Hewett launched his solo career, scoring an immediate R&B hit with "I'm For Real" (which was co-written by Stanley Clarke, and featured such stellar musicians as George Duke and Wilton Felder of the Jazz Crusaders); followed by "Stay", "I Commit to Love" and the contemporary gospel classic, "Say Amen." Hewett has recorded on numerous movie soundtracks including the multi platinum "Footloose" soundtrack and the first "Beverly Hills Cop" soundtrack, which landed him a Grammy for his composition, "Don't Get Stopped in Beverly Hills".

Live Performance "Legacy"- Callon B



Owner and founder of Got Your Back Entertainment started with this idea to create a positive hip hop movement as a freshman in high school, and also make it a record label. He is an MC whom got his start with a love of Hip Hop music at 12 years old and in 2006, conjured GYB Ent. Later, wanting to avoid the constraints of being a record label, GYB became simplified into a brand of hiphop entertainment with an emphasis on positivity and unity, and ultimately expanding into a clothing line as business endeavors continue to move forward. Callon acquired a Bachelors in Audio Production from Full Sail University and is now studying to receive his Masters in Entertainment Business.

"From State Prison to State Professor" – a documentary of the life of Najaar Abdul-Musawwir

Dr. Mike Faris, Moderator

Continental Breakfast

Welcome/Overview Lynne Chambers, JD, MSW, Executive Director

Introduction of Moderator:

Christopher W. Behan joined the faculty at the SIU School of Law in July of 2006. Prior to that, he was an officer in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps for nearly eleven years. His final assignment was Associate Professor of Criminal Law at the Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia. During his military career, he also served as a legal assistance attorney, military prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, administrative law attorney, international and operational law attorney, and legal advisor to U.S. forces in the Sinai Desert as part of the Multinational Force and Observers.



Professor Behan served as Acting Dean of the School of Law from September 2017 to July 2018. He also served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from July 2014 to October 2017. Professor Behan earned an L.L.M. in Military Law (Criminal Law Specialty) from the Judge Advocate General's School in 2003 and was named to the Commandant's List. He received his J.D., magna cum laude, in 1995 from Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School. He was a member of the Order of Barristers, the Director of Interschool Competitions on the Moot Court Board, and a member of the National Moot Court Team. He obtained his B.A., magna cum laude, from Brigham Young University in 1992, majoring in English. Professor Behan's research and teaching interests include military justice, evidence, national security law, and trial advocacy pedagogy. In addition to teaching at SIU School of Law, Professor Behan teaches trial advocacy for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Justice Advocacy Africa, and law firms and government agencies throughout the United States. He has also served as a member of the faculty of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, teaching advanced evidence courses to state court trial judges.

Panel of Policy Makers: Illinois Law and the Criminal Justice System

- Sen. Terri Bryant (invited)
- Rep. Paul Jacobs (invited)
- Rep. Patrick Windhorst (invited)
- Rep. Justin Slaughter (invited)
- Lt. Gov. Julianna Stratton (invited)
- Sen. Dale Fowler (invited)
- Sen. Chris Belt – (invited)
- Rep. Dave Severin (invited)

10am – 10:30am

The Future is Now: The Evolutionary Role of the Prosecuting Attorney

The Prosecutor's role is evolving into one that works with community and law enforcement in the administration of justice. Violent crime has a devastating impact on communities, particularly communities of color. How do we work with citizens to increase the trust in the institution of government? How do we control crime in a way that is effective, but not singularly focused on incarceration? How do we respect and protect the rights of victims?

Presenter:

Joseph Cervantez After the loss of his parents tested him at an early age and taught him to be independent and resourceful. Realizing the importance of an education, and in order to break free from his situation, Joe attended Southern Illinois University where he concentrated in the study of Criminal Justice and History, receiving a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts.



The son of a World War II and Korean War veteran, Joe felt compelled to enlist in the United States Marine Corps Reserve during college. He enlisted at the Carbondale, Illinois Office and attended boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California. Shortly after the devastating attacks on September 11, 2001, Joe re-enlisted and volunteered to serve as a Marine Infantryman, deploying in 2003, 2004, and again in 2007 and 2008. He honorably served with America's finest as an Infantry Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and Platoon Commander, among other billets, in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. In 2010, Joe placed a hold on his career and began his legal education at Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale, Illinois. Joe volunteered as a legal advocate with Domestic Violence Clinic and with the Land of Lincoln in Carbondale, Illinois. After Graduation, Attorney Cervantez was hired by Charles Garnatti, as an Assistant State's Attorney with the Williamson County State's Attorney's Office. He stayed on to work for Williamson County State's Attorney Brandon Zanotti. Later, he was asked to head the juvenile docket for the Saline County State's Attorney's Office. Immediately before becoming State's Attorney, Joe was a partner at the Law Firm of Tetzlaff, Cervantez & Associates, P.C., a general practice law firm with four attorneys. The group specializes in Criminal Law, DUI, Family, Divorce, and Municipal Law.

10:45am– 11:45am

Mitigation Under the Children's Best Interest Act: Why and How

This session will inform lawyers and community members about the Children's Best Interest Act, which took effect on January 1, 2020. Many scientific studies have found that parental incarceration is an Adverse Childhood Experience that impedes children's development and causes serious, lasting harm to their physical, emotional, mental and behavioral health. Illinois courts are now required to consider evidence of family needs when sentencing parents. This 60-minute session will include the experience of a justice-involved mother, introduce the statute's nuts and bolts provisions, explain the function of Family Impact Statements and explore implementation of the law.

Presenters:

Diana Delgado served as the Advocacy Coordinator at Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM), where she led the Visible Voices peer advocacy group, worked with teenage girls in the Juvenile Detention Center with the Girl Talk program, and served on CLAIM's speakers' bureau. She provided testimony before the Illinois Senate Judiciary Committee to help win enactment of a pilot community sentencing program to keep families together. She remained a longtime member of CLAIM's Visible Voices group and now serves as a speaker for Lake County Haven. She is working toward her associate degree in human services majoring in addiction studies at the College of Lake County. She has worked as a researcher at the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, and currently works as a manager at a family-owned furniture store chain. She is the proud mother of four and grandmother of three.



Gail T. Smith is an attorney and the director of the Children's Best Interest Project, a project of the Restore Justice Foundation. She founded and led CLAIM (Chicago Legal Advocacy for Gail T. Smith is an attorney and the director of the Children's Best Interest Project, a project of the Restore Justice Foundation. She founded and led CLAIM (Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers), where she provided legal aid and client education, recruited and trained volunteer lawyers, and engaged justice-involved women in public advocacy. CLAIM merged with Cabrini Green Legal Aid in 2014. Ms. Smith drafted legislation making Illinois the first U.S. state to ban the shackling of women during labor, pregnancy, and post-partum. She won enactment of several laws providing community-based sentencing. She served as the Women in Prison Project Director at the Correctional Association of New York for two years and worked with Adult Redeploy Illinois for two years. In 2013 she was named a White House Champion of Change.



11:45 Lunch

Performance by the Global Girls, Chicago, Illinois

12:30pm



The Global Girls is a 23-year-old performing arts organization based on the south side of Chicago teaching girls (and a few guys) dance, acting and creative writing while bolstering strong social/emotional skills. Additionally, youth discuss their issues in a safe space and create performance pieces that speak to their issues and concerns. Global Girls has chapters in several Illinois cities including Mounds, Illinois.

1pm – 2pm

The Illinois Prison Project

This session will discuss the organization's work, the clemency process, and medical release under the recent Joe Coleman Medical Release Act. The Illinois Prison Project advocates against mass incarceration through its legal work, policy advocacy, and educational efforts. Staff attorneys represent incarcerated individuals in back-end mechanisms such as clemency, parole, medical release, resentencing, and administrative advocacy, in order to obtain our clients' release from prison. IPP's policy work aims to advocate for the implementation of short, medium, and long-term expansions of decarcerative policies and mechanisms

Presenter:



Emily Mollinedo is a Notre Dame Law School Thomas L. Shaffer Legal Fellow and Attorney at the Illinois Prison Project. Miss. Mollinedo advocates for the release of incarcerated people with unjust sentences through a variety of methods including clemency, parole, medical release, resentencing, and administrative advocacy. Further, she advocates for policy changes and reform of Illinois' sentencing laws. Ms. Mollinedo is a member of the Hispanic National Bar Association, the Hispanic Lawyer's Association of Illinois, and the National Association of Women Lawyers. She serves on the Editorial Board for the Women Lawyer's Journal. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School where she served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy. While in law school, Ms. Mollinedo worked with the St. Joseph's Public Defender Office and the Exoneration Justice Clinic. She graduated with honors from New York University where she studied Romance Languages and History.

2 – 215 DIPPIN DOTS ICE CREAM BREAK

2-15 – 3:45

Taking the Price Tag Off the Presumption of Innocence

Each year, Illinois incarcerates nearly a quarter million people in 92 county jails. Most of these people are jailed not because they've been convicted of a crime but because they can't afford to pay a money bond.

In 2021, the Illinois legislature passed the SAFE-T Act, a criminal justice reform omnibus bill meant to address systemic racism in the criminal legal system. At the center of this reform package was the Pretrial Fairness Act, legislation ending money bond and designed to reduce pretrial jailing. Presenters from the Cook County Public Defender's Office and Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice will explain how and why communities across the state joined together to pass this legislation and what pretrial hearings will look like under the new system.

Presenters:



Matthew McLoughlin is an activist and legal worker. Cutting his teeth as an organizer with Occupy Chicago, Matt has continued to organize around key issues in Chicago including school closures, immigrant rights, and racial justice. For the past 12 years, he has helped lift up, document, and support local and national movements to end mass incarceration, including organizing jail support and solidarity actions. He is a co-founder of the Chicago Community Bond Fund and helped pass the Pretrial Fairness Act, legislation that will make Illinois the first state in the country to end wealth-based jailing. He currently serves as the Mass Defense Coordinator for the Chicago chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and as an organizer with the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice.



Sharlyn Grace is the Senior Policy Advisor at the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender. Prior her current role, Sharlyn was a founding member of Chicago Community Bond Fund and served as CCBF's first Executive Director until early 2021. Before joining CCBF full-time, she was the Senior Criminal Justice Policy Analyst at Chicago Appleseed. In those roles, Sharlyn was part of launching and helping lead the Coalition to End Money Bond in 2016 and the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice in 2019. In 2021, their joint statewide legislative campaign culminated in Appleseed. In those roles, Sharlyn was part of launching and helping lead the Coalition to End Money Bond in 2016 and the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice in 2019. In 2021, their joint statewide legislative campaign culminated in the passage of the Pretrial Fairness Act, which will make Illinois the first state to completely eliminate money bail. Outside of work, Sharlyn has provided legal and organizing support for grassroots movements in Chicago since 2012. She is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law and an Illinois licensed attorney.

3:45pm

Evaluation /Next Steps/Adjourn

SPONSORS

"This program is funded in part by a grant from Illinois Humanities."

"About Illinois Humanities: Illinois Humanities, The Illinois affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is a statewide nonprofit organization that activates the humanities through free public programs, grants, and educational opportunities that foster reflection, spark conversation, build community and strengthen civic engagement."

Alexander/Pulaski County Branch NAACP
SIU School of Law

