

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE & Its Policy Implications



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11:30 – 1PM

Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction
- Research & Engaged Scholarship
- Medicine Wheel Activity
- Restorative Justice Policies & Practices
- Closing Circle Activity

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Justice Training for Mass. Court Judges

Suffolk and Northeastern Host First Restorative Justice Training for Mass. Court Judges

“For a long time, I’ve believed that restorative justice is a way for judges and communities to address the underlying problems that bring people into the courthouse, including poverty, homelessness, mental illness and substance use disorder,” said [Professor Deborah Ramirez](#). “We hope this will serve as a model for other court systems in and beyond Massachusetts seeking restorative justice training for judges and employees.”

*Justice Harry J. Elam Judicial Conference
(formerly known as Massachusetts Black Judges Conference)*

Translating Restorative Justice into Policy & Practice

Braithwaite (2003) notes that restorative justice is “an approach to political practice” that “involves radical transformation.”

From this vantage, we can recognize the element of power in processes that adjudicate or determine what harms ‘count’ or what redresses are appropriate in settling disputes among persons.

When translated among restorative justice movements (outlined by Boyes-Watson, 2018), we see a common aim toward a type of ontological holism that binds the lived experiences and fate of persons (Zehr, 2002) who inhabit the same social spaces, including communities, the workplace and broader society.