The Community Justice Initiative,
The Clinical Law Program and
The Community Conferencing Center present

International Justice Tools for the Local Justice Toolkit

Wednesday, November 15, 3:30 - 6 p.m.
500 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD  21201
International Justice Tools for the Local Justice Toolkit

As communities struggle to address the issues of violence and crime, they are reaching across national borders to search for solutions. Baltimore’s Community Conferencing Center studied and modified “Family Group Conferencing” practices used by the indigenous Maori people of New Zealand for use in its local programs. The community of Greensboro, North Carolina decided to adapt the truth and reconciliation process first used in South Africa to address the murders of 5 people in 1979.

From New Zealand to South Africa to Baltimore, these techniques offer individuals and communities an opportunity to collectively resolve crime and conflict themselves. Join us as participants share their experiences with these alternatives to traditional methods of conflict resolution.

The Community Conferencing Center

The Community Conferencing Center (CCC) offers an effective community justice intervention, providing individuals and communities with an opportunity to collectively resolve crime and conflict themselves. Over 6,000 Baltimore residents have successfully resolved a crime or conflict through Community Conferencing. The only program of its kind operating in a large American inner-city, conferencing in Baltimore is offered “indiscriminately;” that is, in any instance where there is a crime or a conflict and where those affected voluntarily decide that they’d like to try it. It is offered in the criminal justice system, in schools, and in neighborhoods.

The Community Justice Initiative

Community justice is a model of violence and crime reduction that supports a community’s involvement in trying to repair the harm rendered by a criminal offense. Community partners work to knit together an array of support services and dispute resolution strategies to address criminal activity, providing an effective alternative to the traditional criminal justice system.

Under the auspices of its nationally recognized Clinical Law Program and supported by a grant from The Charles Crane Family Foundation, Inc., the University of Maryland School of Law has developed and implemented a Community Justice Initiative in an effort to reduce violence in Baltimore City. Over the next two years, we will be working with the Cherry Hill and Washington Village/Pigtown communities of Baltimore City and the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s office to implement community based, multi-faceted alternatives that address criminal issues and restore a sense of justice to the community at large.
Program Schedule

3:30 p.m.   Reception
Krongard Board Room

4 p.m.  Panel Discussion
Ceremonial Moot Courtroom

Panelists

Lauren Abramson, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Community Conferencing Center, Baltimore, MD
Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins Division of Child Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Dr. Abramson focused her attention on Community Conferencing in Baltimore in 1995, groundbreaking for its use in highly distressed communities in a large American city. She advances conferencing as a means of building social capital and collective efficacy on many levels, and has published numerous articles on the conferencing process.

Lewis A. Brandon, III
Archivist & Grassroots History Project Coordinator, The Beloved Community Center of Greensboro, Inc., Greensboro, NC

Described by his friends and colleagues as a man with a love for freedom, justice and equality, Mr. Brandon was a member of the Student Executive Committee for Justice during the early 1960’s when he was matriculating at North Carolina A&T College. He played a key role in formulating protest strategies during the Greensboro civil right demonstrations, including the Woolworth Sit-In Movement. Today he continues to play an active role in the struggle for social justice with the Beloved Community Center of Greensboro. Mr. Brandon is affiliated with numerous organizations including a Life Membership in the Greensboro Branch of the NAACP and holds membership in the Black Child Development Institute (Greensboro), the Committee to Save Dudley High School, the A&T Alumni Association, the A & T Aggie Club and the Piedmont Land Conservancy. In 2001, he received the first Human Rights Medal presented by NC A. & T. State University. He was also awarded the Sit-In Participant Award by the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, as well as the One Community Award presented by the February One Society, for his role in the Sit-In Movement.

Patricia Clark
Executive Director, The Fellowship for Reconciliation, Nyack, NY
Member, Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Ms. Clark is the Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the United States affiliate of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, an organization with programs that advocate for demilitarization and nuclear disarmament, racial and economic justice, and peaceful resolution of conflicts. She has previously served as the National Criminal Justice Representative for the American Friends Service Committee and as director of the Southern Poverty Law Center’s KlanWatch Project.
Madeline Herrington  
Participant, Serious Crimes Conference  
Ms. Herrington participated in a Serious Crimes Conference ten years after the murder of Ms. Herrington’s mother. During the Serious Crimes Conference, she and her daughter were able to have a conversation face to face at the prison with the woman responsible for her mother’s death. She has a very powerful story of forgiveness and reconciliation to tell.

Lisa Magarrell  
Senior Associate  
International Center for Transitional Justice, Washington, D.C.  
Ms. Magarrell is the head of the Canada, United States and Peru programs at the ICTJ, with a special focus in reparations and transitional justice in established democracies. She holds law degrees from the University of Iowa and the University of El Salvador, as well as an LLM from Columbia University. Her human rights work over the past 26 years includes six years of legal advocacy on behalf of asylum seekers and migrant workers in the US and more than seven years leading the international legal work of the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission of El Salvador in San Salvador.

Ed Whitfield  
Member, Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission  
Mr. Whitfield has been a civil rights, peace and justice and community education advocate and activist since his high school days in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was a national leader in the Black Student movement of the late 60s and has been involved with the Greensboro North Carolina’s activist community in many capacities. He is now active in involving community groups with educational policy governance and working with youth in the public schools. For several years Ed wrote a bi-weekly column in an African American community paper as well as co-hosting a weekly radio talk show. Ed was involved with the Greensboro Truth and Community reconciliation work since shortly after its conception, producing the initial draft of the mandate and co-chairing the selection panel for the Commission, as well as testifying at the first set of public hearings and recording and editing the complete audio record of the hearings.

Moderator  
Sherrilyn A. Ifill, JD  
Associate Professor of Law  
University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, MD  
Professor Ifill is nationally recognized as an advocate in the areas of civil rights, voting rights, judicial diversity and judicial decision-making. She writes regularly about judicial diversity and decision-making, as well as racial violence and reconciliation efforts. Her book about truth and reconciliation commissions for lynching entitled, ON THE COURTHOUSE LAWN: CONFRONTING THE LEGACY OF LYNCHING IN THE 21ST CENTURY will be published by Beacon Books in February 2007.
**REGISTRATION**
To register, please visit http://www.law.umaryland.edu/conferences.asp. The presentation is free and open to the public.

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**
If you require special accommodations to attend or participate, please provide information about your requirements to Lu Ann Marshall at 410-706-4128 (1-800-735-2258 TTY/Voice) at least five business days in advance.

**DIRECTIONS AND PARKING**
From I-95 take route 395 (downtown Baltimore) and exit on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Turn right at fourth traffic light onto Baltimore St. Turn left at second traffic light onto Paca St. Go 1/4 block and turn right into the Baltimore Grand Garage at 5 N. Paca St. The law school is directly across the street from the garage, at the corner of Paca and Baltimore Streets. Parking fees are the responsibility of the participants.